FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 12 *17 January 1979*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Palestinian National Council Resumes Meetings in Damascus A 1
Further Reportage A 1
PNC Chairman Al-Fahum Discusses 16 Jan Meeting A 1
Palestinian-Lebanese Joint Command Submits Memo to PNC A 2
AFP: Capucci Nominated for Seat on Palestine National Council A 3
PNC Asks Jordan To Release PNC Member Shunnar [VOP] A 3
Baghdad VOP Calls for Combative Palestinian National Unity A 3

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Minister Comments on Events in Iran, Gulf Unity C 1
Arab League Secretary General Riyad Meets Amir C 1
Received by Prime Minister C 1

SAUDI ARABIA

Uganda's Amin Returns to Riyadh After Khalid Visit C 2
Amin Departs for Uganda C 2

UAE

Iraqi-Syrian Unity Welcomed by Government C 2

Briefs: December Oil Exports; Gas for Japanese Company C 2

EGYPT

Shah of Iran Arrives in Aswan En Route to United States D 1
As-Sadat Gives Banquet for Shah D 1
Shah To Meet With Ford D 1
As-Sadat Receives French Air Force Commander D 2
Israeli Settlements Sabotage Peace Efforts [Surur] D 2

IRAQ

Saddam Husayn Discusses Iraqi-Syrian Unity E 1
Number of Flights To Be Increased Between Iraq, Syria E 1
Saddam Husayn Receives Yugoslav Ambassador in Baghdad E 2
Education Minister Returns Home From African Tour E 2
Arab Youth, Sports Ministers Conference Opens in Baghdad E 2
Ba'thist Discusses Arab, International Affairs E 2

JORDAN

King Husayn Returns Following Short Visit to Damascus F 1
Papers Comment F 1
Amman Comments on Atherton's Current Tour F 2

LEBANON

MEA Hijacking Ends Peacefully; Hijackers Surrender G 1
Radio Denies Rumors of Tension, Says Roads Safe G 1
Forces Command Refutes Rumors [VOL] G 2
Arab Deterrent Forces Report 16 Jan Incidents G 2
Sudanese Embassy Denies Contingent Withdrawal Reports [VOL] G 2
UN Spokesman Denies Entry of Israeli Forces Into South G 3
Al-Huss Interviewed by Kuwaiti Paper on Situation in South G 3
Arab League's Riyad Makes Statement, Leaves Beirut G 3
Legislative Committees Adopt Recommendation on UNIFIL G 4
Official Comments on Sale of Land to Foreigners G 5

SYRIA

Husyan Meets With Al-Asad, Leaves Damascus 16 Jan H 1
Iraqi Military Delegation Visits Syrian Front Lines H 1
Iraqi-Syria Military Committee Meets in Damascus H 1
Al-Asad Receives Committee Members H 2
Transport Minister Salim Yasin Leaves for Moscow H 2
TISHRIN: Shah's Fall Shows Support for Arab Struggle H 2

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

QNA: Ben Bella Reportedly To Be Released I 1
Solidarity With Benin Pledged on Anniversary of 'Aggression' I 1

LIBYA

Jallud Receives SDAR Prime Minister I 1

MAURITANIA

Government Announces Reorganization, New Cabinet I 1

MOROCCO

Prime Minister Confident of OAU Settlement in NW Africa I 2

SUDAN

Numayri Hails As-Sadat, May Meet With Mengistu I 2

WESTERN SAHARA

APS: SDAR Minister Scores Madrid Agreements I 3
Saharan Fighters Attack Garrison of Moroccan Soldiers I 4
Sahara's 'Boumediene' Offensive To Continue 'Until Victory' I 4
[Algiers EL MOUDJAHID 10 Jan]

ISRAEL

Begin Meets With Knesset Security, Foreign Affairs Committee N 1
Further Remarks N 1
Atherton Arrives in Israel To 'Pave Way' for Talks N 2
First Meeting Over N 2
Settlement Issue N 3
MK Arens Comments N 3
Dinitz Favors Comprehensive Solution to Middle East Dispute N 4
[LA'AREZ 16 Jan]
Gur Warns Against Ceding Rafah Settlements N 4
Security Elements Deny Complaints of Torture N 4
[HA'AREZ 16 Jan]
Amman Banks Explore Possibility of Opening W. Bank Branches N 5
MA'ARIV on Attitudes Toward Syria-Iraq Unification [16 Jan] N 5
Jerusalem Comments on Departure of Shah From Iran N 6
Yadin Comments on Effects of Iranian Crisis on Israel N 7
MK Arens Asks U.S. To Warn Syria Against Shelling Beirut N 7

IRAN

Prime Minister Bakhtiar Speaks in Majlis Debate R 1
Recording of Majlis Debate R 7
Radio, TV Staffs React to Bakhtiar Speech R 8
Bakhtiar Interviewed on Remarks About Radio, TV Staff R 9
Prime Minister Bakhtiar Addresses Nation R 11
Tehran Military Governor Warns Potential Troublemakers R 12
AFP: Tehran Celebrates Departure of Shah R 13
Tehran Radio Reports Demonstrations 16 Jan R 14
AFP: Tehran Daily Says U.S. MAAG Head Found Hanged R 14
Power Workers Promise End to Power Cuts R 14
Religious Community Issues Statement Urging Order R 14
Tehran Reports Khomeyni Message Urges Calm R 15
Paris Reports Khomeyni Receives National Front Leader R 15
AFP: Khomeyni Says He Will Form Provisional Government R 15
Khomeyni: U.S. Leaders Are 'Enemies' of Iranians R 16
[Paris L'EXPRESS 20 Jan]
National Voice of Iran Warns Bakhtiar of U.S. Presence R 17

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

AFP: Kabul Radio Denies Reports of Fighting S 1
Taraki Addresses Army Officers 27 December S 2

INDIA

Desai Greets New Iranian Prime Minister S 3
Indian Election Commission Hears Gandhi Expulsion Case S 4
Nonbailable Warrant Issued Against Sanjay Gandhi S 4
Delhi Radio Reports Aid Commitment to Afghanistan S 4
Wheat Supply Accord S 5
India Voices Deep Concern About U.S. Uranium Supply Delay S 5
U.S. Assures Clearance of Uranium S 5
Mauritius Prime Minister Talks With Vajpayee, Desai S 6

PAKISTAN

Government Calls for Foreign Troop Withdrawal From Cambodia S 6
Presence of U.S. Monitoring Stations Denied S 6
Ziaul Haq To Enact More Islamic Laws Next Month S 6

Briefs: Soviet Surveying Assistance in Afghanistan; Afghan-CSSR Protocol S 7

PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL RESUMES MEETINGS IN DAMASCUS

JN161815 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 16 January--The Palestine National Council [PNC] resumed its meetings at 1800 today, holding its second session under PNC Chairman Khalid al-Fahum. The council heard several speeches by friendly delegations participating in the meetings. The cables sent by the leaders of several states and friendly parties were read.

Further Reportage

JN162159 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] The second session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] ended at about 2200 today. The session was devoted to the speeches of the Arab and friendly delegations taking part in the meeting and to the letters and cables of support received by the council's secretariat from the various states and democratic organizations.

The first speech was by the Algerian delegation and ready by the Algerian ambassador in Damascus. Then the letter sent by Hua Guofeng [Hua Kuo-feng], PRC chairman, was read. Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, informed the council about the Zionist military aggression on southern Lebanon and gave details about the Zionist attempt to land at Ar-Rashidiyah Camp, which was thwarted by the heroic resistance of the Palestinian revolution forces.

Mirza Ibragimov, chairman of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With the Asian and African Countries, read the speech of the Soviet delegation. Dr Muhammad Khalafallah, from the National Progressive Union Party in Egypt, made a speech in which he pointed out that the Egyptian regime has prevented some supporters of the Palestinian people from attending the council's session.

Khalid al-Fahum, PNC chairman, commented on the speech of the Egyptian delegate. He hailed the struggle of the Egyptian people and said: The Egyptian people will always be our struggling and fighting Arab people despite the attempts of their present ruler to deviate from the right path. He said: We are convinced that Egypt will return to us. Then a letter from Mahmud Riyad, Arab League Secretary General, was read during the session. The GDR delegation head made a speech in which he conveyed the greetings of the SED Central Committee and hailed the council's session and the Palestinian people. The Arab Parliamentary Union speech was read by the speaker of National Federal Assembly of the UAE.

After the speech by Hamad al-Farhan, on behalf of the Jordanian national movement, the head of the Cuban delegation and member of the Cuban Communist Party read his speech. He was followed by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah delegate, brother 'Umar al-Hamidi.

The speeches of Yugoslavia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria were also read. The council will resume its meetings at 1000 tomorrow, Wednesday.

PNC CHAIRMAN AL-FAHUM DISCUSSES 16 JAN MEETING

JN170939 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0905 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 17 January--Palestine National Council Chairman Khalid al-Fahum has declared that yesterday's morning session of the council began by confirming the PNC membership. He said the council requested certain factions of the Palestinian resistance movement and of Palestinian popular organizations to conduct certain changes in their representatives.

He said the council then discussed and approved in a secret session its draft agenda submitted by the council's presidium.

Al-Fahum said that the political report submitted by the PLO Executive Committee, the financial report submitted by the Board of Directors of the Palestine National Fund, the political program, and the organizational program approved by all the factions of the resistance movement and the central council were included on the agenda.

Al-Fahum explained that the council discussed in its secret session the political and financial aspects, the political and organizational program, the reports and recommendations of the committees, the formation of leadership institutions within the PLO, and the situation in southern Lebanon.

In a statement to the newspaper TISHRIN, Al-Fahum added that the council heard speeches in its evening session by several chairmen of delegations from the fraternal Arab and friendly countries. They expressed support of the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people.

Asked about the existence of differences, Al-Fahum said: They are differences among brothers, a phenomenon involving peripheral issues and not the essence.

Asked about Palestinian national unity, on which all members of the delegations concentrated in their speeches, Al-Fahum said: We are working to achieve full Palestinian national unity. I am certainly optimistic on this question because the council will achieve more this time than it has achieved before regarding the question of Palestinian national unity and the representation of the Palestinian organizations and forces in the PLO's higher institutions.

The second session of the PNC ended at about 2300 yesterday. The session was devoted to hearing speeches by the Arab and friendly delegations participating in the conference. Letters and cables of support received by the council's Secretariat from several countries and national and democratic bodies were also read.

PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE JOINT COMMAND SUBMITS MEMO TO PNC

JN171047 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0936 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 17 January--The Joint Command of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement has declared that the Lebanese-Palestinian alliance is shouldering the task of defending southern Lebanon.

In a memo the Joint Command submitted to the Palestine National Council [PNC] currently meeting in Damascus, the Joint Command called for providing "all means of steadfastness for the southern Lebanese masses and enabling them to defend the lands of southern Lebanon."

The grouping of the popular committees and leagues in Lebanon has called on the PNC to protect the achievements accomplished by the Arab struggle through deepening the alliance between the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

In a similar memo, the grouping said that the unity of blood and struggle which united the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples throughout the difficult years represents today a unity for all the Arabs and an appeal to every Arab to support the battle of Arabism and unity and to liquidate the enemy pockets in Lebanon in order to continue the march of liberation.

AFP: CAPUCCI NOMINATED FOR SEAT ON PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL

TA161605 Paris AFP in English 1556 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 16 (AFP)--The former Greek Orthodox bishop of Jerusalem, Hilarion Capucci has been proposed as a member of the Palestine National Council (parliament), a Palestinian source said here today. The source said that Bishop Capucci's name was one of nine proposed members on the draft agenda approved by the council before it adjourned this afternoon. The council's 14th session opened here last night and will resume this evening. The source said that Bishop Capucci's nomination was "a mark of tribute to this bishop for his national attitude, and also a challenge to Israel for its illegal and inhuman attitude toward the former bishop of Jerusalem."

PNC ASKS JORDAN TO RELEASE PNC MEMBER SHUNNAR

JN161823 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1730 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Palestine National Council [PNC] tonight officially asked Jordanian authorities to release brother struggler Usama Shunnar, member of the PNC, so he can attend the meetings of the 14th PNC session. This was contained in a PNC decision, during its morning session, to cable the Jordanian Government requesting the release of PNC member Usama Shunnar, who is currently detained in Al-Mahattah Prison in Amman.

BAGHDAD VOP CALLS FOR COMBATIVE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL UNITY

JN162029 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1845 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Each time the Palestine National Council [PNC] convenes, the masses and fighters of our people, as well as the masses of the Arab nation, pose an important question: Will the armed groups of the revolution unite in one patriotic front and organize, mobilize and arm the masses in order the move forward to a popular war in which the masses of the entire Arab nation will participate?

The masses have every right to ask this question and keep it alive for two reasons: 1. A total of 14 years has passes since our armed Palestinian revolution erupted. It is still waging guerrilla warfare against the Zionist enemy and struggling on the level of the masses in the form of demonstrations, upheavals and [words indistinct] to move to the method of popular war and improvement of military operations. 2. Any revolution that wants to triumph and liberate its country uses all its potential to unify its fighting groups as rapidly as possible. Our people have had enough squandering of resources, efforts and sacrifices made for purposes other than liberation. While making this appeal and demanding a quick realization of their noble aspiration for national unity, our masses want this unity to be a fighting unity based on firm scientific foundations, not a unity serving the interests of a certain party that does not believe in the continuation of fighting and in total liberation. Our masses do not want a unity devoid of content, a unity favoring the individual to the group. Before anything else, unity means collective decision and collective action. On the occasion of the convocation of the 14th PNC session, the question becomes more insistent, particularly since the PNC is convening amid gravely dangerous and complicated circumstances, and amid an integrated series of conspiracies: the Camp David conspiracy, which resulted in the removal of an Arab regime from the conflict with the enemy and this regime's participation in the imperialist-Zionist alliance against the Palestinian revolution and the Arab progressive forces; the conspiracy of self-rule in the occupied land and the dangers inherent in this conspiracy against the fateful issue of our people; the Zionist-isolationist conspiracy against our revolution in Lebanon and against the future and Arabism of southern Lebanon. The participants in this PNC session should be up to the level of the stage and the challenge imposed on our people and nation.

KUWAIT

MINISTER COMMENTS ON EVENTS IN IRAN, GULF UNITY

JN170911 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0840 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 17 January--'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, has said that current events in Iran are merely domestic developments and will not lead to a vacuum in the gulf area. In a statement published in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today, Husayn affirmed that those who think such a vacuum may result in the area do not use logic. Under any circumstances, Iran will remain one of the major states which [word indistinct] any foreign presence in the gulf. Furthermore, events in Iran will not undermine the status of this country as a state or harm its territorial integrity.

The Kuwaiti minister of state denied reports that during Kuwaiti heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah's recent visit to several gulf states in December, efforts were exerted to bring about unity or a union among the Arab Gulf states. He described these reports as inaccurate.

Regarding gulf unity, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said that his country practices a realistic policy regarding coordination and cooperation with other gulf countries. Unity is not an easy demand and requires extraordinary efforts. One cannot jump to conclusions without taking facts and details into consideration.

Regarding the results of the gulf tour which Kuwaiti heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah made in December, Mr Husayn said: The tour was a step in the right direction. The joint committees formed among Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, (?Qatar), the UAE, and Oman have begun their work on all the fields which will lead to total integration. The Kuwaiti minister said that his country looks forward to a contemporary form of cooperation among the gulf states similar to that existing among the European countries, such as the EEC.

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL RIYAD MEETS AMIR

LD171108 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--This morning, the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, received Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad, who is presently on a visit to Kuwait. Nothing was disclosed about the talks, which were attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Shaykh as-Sabah is expected to have talks with Mahmud Riyad, who arrived in Kuwait last night from Lebanon on a 2-day visit, on current Arab issues.

Received by Prime Minister

LD171110 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Jan 79 LD

[Text] His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah received League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad at 1030 in the cabinet office this morning on the occasion of his visit to the country. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

SAUDI ARABIA

UGANDA'S AMIN RETURNS TO RIYADH AFTER KHALID VISIT

LD162036 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Text] President Idi Amin of Uganda returned to Riyadh this afternoon after having met King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz at the royal encampment.

President Idi Amin left the encampment at 1430; he was seen off by King Khalid and by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard.

Amin Departs for Uganda

LD170837 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 17 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] Riyadh--President Idi Amin of Uganda left Riyadh this morning at the end of his 2-day visit to the kingdom.

UAE

IRAQI-SYRIAN UNITY WELCOMED BY GOVERNMENT

JN170835 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 January--UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah has declared that the expected unity between Syria and Iraq will be a great and important achievement which will play a great role in rectifying the balance of power in the interest of the Arab nation.

'Abdallah added that Arab unity is the fate of the Arab nation. Consequently, the UAE welcomes any unionist action capable of saving the Arab nation from the state of deterioration it is suffering.

'Abdallah affirmed in statements published by the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today that the anticipated unity "represents a strategic depth for the Arab Gulf states."

BRIEFS

DECEMBER OIL EXPORTS--Riyadh, 15 Jan, SNA--Up to the end of December, 1978, the average of daily exports of Saudi crude oil reached 10,031,255 barrels, a Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources told SNA. He said that Aramco's exports reached 9,735,974 barrels a day and those of the Arab Oil Company Ltd 236,342 barrels. Exports by the Getty Oil Company reached 58,939 barrels a day. [Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Jan 79 LD]

GAS FOR JAPANESE COMPANY--Kuwait--A major Japanese company, Bridgestone, is to purchase 500,000 tons of liquified gas annually from Kuwait under a 10-year contract signed here today. The company is to obtain the gas from the new liquification plant which began production at the end of December. The contract stipulates that 50 percent of the gas sold is to be carried by Kuwaiti gas tankers. [Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jan 79 LD]

SHAH OF IRAN ARRIVES IN ASWAN EN ROUTE TO UNITED STATES

NC161403 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1358 GMT 16 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Aswan, 16 January--Shahanshah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the shah of Iran, arrived in Aswan at 1530 today on a visit to Egypt en route to the United States.

The Iranian ruler was met at Aswan airport by President Anwar as-Sadat. After the reception ceremony, the shah went to the Oberoi Hotel, where he will stay during his visit to Aswan.

As-Sadat Gives Banquet for Shah

NC162016 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jan 79 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat tonight gave a dinner banquet at the Oberoi Hotel in honor of shahanshah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Shah To Meet With Ford

NC170710 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 17 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 January--AL-AHRAM quotes Iranian officials as saying that Shahanshah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi will meet with former U.S. President Gerald Ford in Aswan tomorrow when Ford arrives to begin a tour of several Middle Eastern states.

The paper also reports that during their 2-hour closed meeting last night, President Anwar as-Sadat discussed the latest developments in the area with the shahanshah. They also exchanged views on current issues in the Middle East.

The paper adds that the Egyptian official position is represented in support for the legitimate government in Iran. Egypt also welcomes the shah for the positive role he played in assisting Egypt in connection with the Middle East issue and for his constant, distinguished position on international issues.

[Doha QNA in Arabic 26 0930 GMT on 17 January says that "AL-AHRAM today quotes a senior Egyptian diplomat as saying that the warm reception accorded to Emperor Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the shah of Iran, on his arrival in Aswan yesterday does not mean that Egypt supports one side against the other in the internal Iranian conflict. The Egyptian diplomat said that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat and the shah of Iran are very close friends, and that a person is usually in need of a friend under such conditions."

[The QNA report also notes that "in a statement to AL-AHRAM, the chief of protocol at the Iranian Court and the spokesman of the delegation accompanying the shah expressed the gratitude of the shah, Shahbanu Farah Diba and all members of the delegation to President Anwar as-Sadat for inviting them to visit Aswan. He said that the shah and the shahbanu greatly appreciate the warm and sincere fraternal reception in which all sons of the Egyptian people, represented by the people of Aswan, participated. He expressed the confidence of the shah that the feelings of amity and cooperation between the leaders and peoples in Egypt and Iran would continue forever."]

AS-SADAT RECEIVES FRENCH AIR FORCE COMMANDER

NC162059 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2046 GMT 16 Jay 79 NC

[Text] Aswan, 16 January--President Anwar as-Sadat today received a French military delegation led by Commander of the French Air Force General (Sancrin). The delegation is currently visiting Egypt.

The meeting was attended by French Ambassador Jacques Senard and Commander of the Egyptian Air Force Maj Gen Shakir 'Abd al-Mun'im.

The French delegation arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 7-day visit, during which it will have talks with a number of officials and visit several Egyptian airbases.

ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS SABOTAGE PEACE EFFORTS

NC161415 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Jan 79 NC

[Fawzi Surur commentary: "Israel's Obstruction of the Peace March"]

[Excerpt] It is needless to reiterate here that Washington, on several occasions during the Washington talks and even after the suspension of talks, expressed its understanding of and support for the Egyptian stand. However, the Israeli side adopted an opposite line of creating obstacles in the way of the peace march, which reached its inevitable end in completely freezing the march. Even recently, during the new U.S. move to revive the talks, the Tel Aviv leaders resorted to the strategy of maneuvering and of creating obstacles in the way of resumption.

The dangerous cards played by Tel Aviv are the settlements issue and its declared and nondeclared policy on the establishment of these settlements. Nobody can claim to know how many settlements Tel Aviv proposes to set up in the occupied Arab territory, particularly in the West Bank and Gaza, which is the land of the Palestinian people. Likewise, nobody can deny that this policy is sabotaging the current efforts for a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

The Tel Aviv leaders' persistence in this policy means continuous playing with a fire that will explode and again exacerbate the crisis. It is hoped that the Israeli officials will understand this simple fact and that U.S. roving ambassador Alfred Atherton will succeed in his mission. It is also hoped that the Tel Aviv leaders will succeed in overcoming their traditional concepts, which have been rejected. Finally, it is hoped that the Tel Aviv leaders will realize that Egypt rejects a separate solution and anything taking priority over its Arab commitments. Egypt regards the Egyptian-Israeli agreement as a step toward a comprehensive solution. It also adheres to the land and is eager to preserve Arab and Palestinian rights.

SADDAM HUSAYN DISCUSSES IRAQI-SYRIAN UNITY

JN170812 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 17 Jan--Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn has declared that the new relationship between Iraq and Syria will fulfill the aspirations of the Arab masses not only in Iraq and Syria but in the entire Arab homeland, by establishing unity between the two fraternal struggling countries.

This came when Saddam Husayn received at the National Council building last night the delegations of the Syrian Jurists' Federation, the Agricultural Engineers' Federation and the Peasants' Federation.

Saddam Husayn asserted that the achievement of this unity "will revive the hopes of the Arab masses everywhere and will place the Arab resources of struggle on a completely different level."

Saddam Husayn affirmed that the newly born unity will be more capable of action and of coping with states of emergency. More importantly, the newly born will be more capable of building the new Arab civilization.

Saddam Husayn said: We have always viewed unity as an element of strength, impregnability, action, and a new civilization to revive the spirit and glories of the old Arab civilization. The leaderships and peoples in the two countries still have that genuine view of this unity.

Speaking about the conditions of the Arab nation in the aftermath of the Camp David agreement and the treasonous visit As-Sadat made to the occupied areas, Saddam Husayn said that these conditions made every sincere individual look for another path to reply to these conditions and "not merely to reply but to bypass these conditions and enter into a new state expressing the genuine aspirations of the nation."

Saddam Husayn explained that the only way to reply to these conditions and to place the Arab nation on a new path was the new relationship between both fraternal countries, Iraq and Syria.

NUMBER OF FLIGHTS TO BE INCREASED BETWEEN IRAQ, SYRIA

JN161155 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 16 Jan--Iraq and Syria have agreed to increase the number of air flights between Damascus and Baghdad to six flights a week instead of four. This will go into force as of 1 February.

This was announced today here by 'Abd al-Karim Nada al-Husayn, director of the General Organization for Civil Aviation. He explained that a central joint committee has been formed for air transport and civil aviation stemming from the joint committee for economic affairs and technical cooperation between the two countries.

He also explained that the two sides prepared a detailed study of results that might ensue from the implementation of a transport protocol between the As-Sadat regime and the Zionist enemy. If this protocol were put into force the two sides would immediately take appropriate measures.

Al-Husayn concluded that the two sides agreed to coordinate their stands in all international and regional conferences.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR IN BAGHDAD

JN161238 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, received in his office in the National Council building today Zivko Mucalov, the Yugoslav ambassador in Baghdad. The discussion during this meeting, which was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali, dealt with bilateral relations.

EDUCATION MINISTER RETURNS HOME FROM AFRICAN TOUR

JN161158 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 16 Jan--Dr 'Issam 'Abd 'Ali, minister of higher education and scientific research, and the accompanying delegation returned home last night following a 2-week visit to Niger, Mali, and Chad.

ARAB YOUTH, SPORTS MINISTERS CONFERENCE OPENS IN BAGHDAD

JN151211 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1156 GMT 15 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 15 Jan--The second conference of the Council of the Arab Youth and Sports Ministers was opened here this morning. Iraqi Youth Minister Karim Mahmud Husayn opened the conference on behalf of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr.

During its 3-day meetings, the conference will discuss the question of preparing the bylaws of the council and the approval of the contributions of the member states in the Arab Fund for Sports and Youth Activities and installations in the Arab countries. The council will also elect its executive bureau.

BA'THIST DISCUSSES ARAB, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

JN161404 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 Jan--Tariq 'Aziz, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and member of the Revolution Command Council, has stated that Iraq and Syria are directly concerned with the Palestinian issue because it is the central issue in their ideology and because the Zionist threat is menacing Syrian and Iraqi security.

In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR published here today, 'Aziz pinpointed Iraq's position toward the right of every Arab state to adopt its independent decisions, particularly the Palestinian decision.

'Aziz said: We respect the political and organizational independence of the Palestinian resistance and every legitimate entity, whether it is a party, organization or regime. He added: However, as far as the vital issues that concern the Arab fate are concerned, nobody is entitled to act alone. This is a basic principle of the pan-Arab movement, which considers the Palestinian resistance as part of it.

'Aziz asserted that Iraq respects the political independence of all organizations. We, however, consider the fateful resolutions that pertain to the Palestinian issue as pan-Arab resolutions, he added. He pointed out that several meetings had taken place between the Palestinian organizations and both Iraq and Syria in light of the changes that have emerged from the Joint Charter for National Action between the two fraternal countries as well as from the Baghdad summit.

'Aziz said that the unity charter between Iraq and Syria constitutes a positive factor reflecting on the Lebanese situation. When Lebanon's brothers are strong, united and stabilized, this would reflect on Lebanon's domestic situation and would strengthen the factors of unity, strength and stability.

About the situation in Iran, Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq is ethically and meticulously committed to good relations and to respect for the principles and bases regarding nonintervention in domestic affairs. He added that what is taking place in Iran concerns the Iranian people. We undoubtedly respect the will of these people, and we will have normal cooperation with any legitimate authority in Iran in accordance with the joint interests of the Iranian and Iraqi peoples, 'Aziz added.

'Aziz asserted Iraq's firm stand toward the Arab Gulf or toward any other Arab issue. He said that this stand is based on preserving and protecting Arabism against any form of foreign intervention. This is because the Arabs are capable of defending themselves and their land, and they do not need any foreign force to assume this task on their behalf.

About the causes and objectives of dispatching a squadron of U.S. F-15 fighters to Saudi Arabia, 'Aziz said, "we in Iraq are not afraid or worried about any U.S. or other military move because we are capable of defending our land, airspace and water."

About the relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union, 'Aziz said that the relations with the Soviet Union had been built on respect in the past and that we are determined to preserve this friendship, cooperation and nonintervention in domestic affairs. He added: When the Soviet Union was exposed to a campaign of slanderous vilification by several Arab parties, Iraq adopted an ethical and solidarity stand toward it because the Soviet Union is a friend to the Arabs. The Soviet Union had on many occasions asserted its commitment to this friendship. However, we told the Soviet Union and other big and small countries that we place the question of sovereignty and independence above any other considerations, and we do not permit any friend or neighbor to intervene in our domestic affairs, 'Aziz added.

Asked about the motives of Saddam Husayn's visit to Moscow, 'Aziz said that the visit is part of the tradition regarding the exchange of visits on the highest level between Iraq and the Soviet Union. Bilateral relations, 'Aziz added, require consultations and visits. He added that the second motive of the visit was the situation in the Arab area. He said: We are concerned with this situation and so is the Soviet Union because of its friendship with the Arabs and its international outlook. It was, therefore, natural to consult with it concerning the current situation after Camp David, the Baghdad summit and the Iraqi-Syrian meeting.

KING HUSAYN RETURNS FOLLOWING SHORT VISIT TO DAMASCUS

JN161816 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and the accompanying delegation returned to Amman tonight following a short 1-day visit to Damascus, during which he held intensive talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

His majesty was welcomed on his return by the minister of court, the chief chamberlain and the ministers.

President Hafiz al-Asad, Syrian Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, the chief of staff and senior Syrian officials saw off his majesty upon his departure from Damascus.

Papers Comment

JN170824 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Press review]

[Text] Today's Jordanian papers discuss in their editorials the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and their discussions on Arab and international issues and the fraternal relations.

The newspaper AL-AKHBAR says: The meeting between King Husayn and President al-Asad in Damascus responds at this particular time to the dictates of pan-Arabism. It is an expression of the national feelings of the two leaders who deal with the issues of the day and act in line with the dictates of these issues in terms of consultation and coordination, particularly since Syria and Jordan today constitute the first and only Arab line in the face of the Zionist aggression. This responsibility is a historic one which lives in the conscience of the two leaders, Husayn and Al-Asad, and is translated in terms of achievements and national preparedness exactly as it is translated in terms of joint cooperation. AL-AKHBAR adds: The Jordanian-Syrian meeting comes in response to pan-Arab need dictated by current Arab circumstances to exchange views on recent developments in the Arab area and to take the appropriate steps at the level of joint cooperation in response to the need to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current Arab situation. Jordan's and Syria's fate is to stand as an impregnable shield protecting Arabdom from the evil of expansion and aggression. The building of this impregnable shield can take place by continuing their cooperation and coordination in all fields. The Husayn-Al-Asad meeting is in line with Arab hopes pinned on Syria and Jordan to save the Arab future from the dangers of evil and aggression.

Speaking on the same subject, the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: These talks are a living example of ideal fraternal relations, which are characterized by consultation, coordination and objective study of the fateful issue and the issues of joint interest. Undoubtedly, the delicate phase through which our area is passing--particularly the Iraqi-Syrain march toward unity; the efforts made to develop relations between Jordan and the PLO; the incidents in southern Lebanon; the constant Israeli challenges; and the restoration of the attempts aimed at signing the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel--indicates that the meeting between King Husayn and President al-Asad was a general review of the situation and a preparedness to cope with the eventualities of the future in light of the resolutions adopted by the Arab summit conference in Baghdad.

AD-DUSTUR ADDS: It is natural that the results of this meeting will be among the foremost issues Presidents al-Asad and al-Bakr will discuss in Damascus on 25 January. It is also natural that results of this meeting will be of special significance for the efforts made to reinforce the Arab security belt on our eastern flank.

Thus, it can be said that the Husayn-Al-Asad talks in Damascus are an indicator that the results of the Baghdad summit are now bearing fruit in our area. This is a healthy indicator strengthening hope in the future and asserting Arab determination to hold out honorably until an honorable, comprehensive peace is achieved.

AMMAN COMMENTS ON ATHERTON'S CURRENT TOUR

JN161729 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] On the eve of the arrival of Alfred Atherton and the State Department's legal adviser to Israel and a new mission aimed at overcoming the obstacles that continue to delay the signing of the bilateral treaty between Egypt and Israel, the White House secretary declared that it is incumbent upon Egypt and Israel either to bridge the gap of differences in their views or to show flexibility prior to President Carter's decision to call for the resumption of negotiations--either on the ministerial level or on the summit level.

Seemingly Washington seeks, behind its current mediation on the level of technical envoys, to solve the existing problems between Egypt and Israel regarding the fourth and sixth articles of the draft peace treaty in preparation for resuming the negotiations on a level to be determined later by the U.S. administration. It is obvious that sending Atherton to the area and at this particular time indicates that the peace issue in the Middle East occupies a lower grade in the list of priorities of U.S. foreign policy. The lukewarmness in the U.S. administration's effort to achieve the bilateral treaty arises from Israeli procedures and stands, from Egypt's isolation on the Arab level, from the serious developments in Iran and from the Arabs' agreement at the Baghdad summit.

Hence, the realities achieved by Camp David have radically changed and stand counter to the two agreements. This has led to a failure to sign the Blair House treaty, because it constitutes a bilateral treaty that cannot be named the final and overall settlement of the Middle East crisis. Thus, the importance of the positive and collective stand adopted at the Baghdad summit is manifest. This stand is based on the UN principles and charter and calls for achieving peace based on the fundamental principles approved by the United Nations and embodied by Security Council Resolution 242, which constitutes the minimum legitimate Arab demands to establish a comprehensive and durable peace in the area.

During his recent European tour, His Majesty King Husayn exerted strenuous efforts to present to the world the full picture of the collective Arab stand, without which the desired peace cannot be achieved in the Middle East. Hence, the Camp David agreements, which constitute the principle of the current negotiations and which are rejected by the Arabs because they contradict international law and UN resolutions, must be replaced by another peace method with a single Arab voice compatible with the unity of the Arab cause. The problem cannot be solved by separate agreements or by deceptive rumors aimed at setting up self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip under the Israeli military occupation and Israeli political sovereignty, which entrench and legalize occupation.

MEA HIJACKING ENDS PEACEFULLY; HIJACKERS SURRENDER

NC170616 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] After 7.5 hours, the hijacking incident involving the MEA airliner ended peacefully at Beirut International Airport. The 73 passengers and crew have been released. The three hijackers, who called themselves "As-Sariyun" after Imam Musa as-Sadr, have surrendered to the Internal Security Forces at the airport. The operation ended peacefully as a result of the efforts of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman and Public Works and Tourism Minister Engineer Amin al-Bizri.

The negotiations with the hijackers were conducted from the airport tower. Contacts were also held with the deputy chairman of the Supreme Islamic Shi'ite Council, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, and Deputy Husayn al-Husayni, who came to the airport. Director general of the Internal Security Forces Staff, Brig Gen Ahmad al-Hajj, then arrived at the airport. He was followed by Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Munir Abu Fadil. As a result of the efforts exerted, one of the hijackers left the plane accompanied by Deputy al-Husayni. The hijacker read a press statement explaining the reasons for the hijacking and describing what he and his two colleagues did to awaken world conscience about the disappearance of Imam as-Sadr. He said: We, the sons of Imam Musa as-Sadr, make an appeal for our just humanitarian cause.

At 0115, Ministers Salman and Al-Bizri left the airport tower. Minister Salman told reporters: We thank all those who contributed to ending the operation. We cite in particular Deputy Husayn al-Husayni and the brothers who came with him. Minister Salman then met with the passengers. In the meantime, the hijackers surrendered one at a time to the Internal Security authorities. They have been transferred to one of the rooms in the airport, where their interrogation has begun.

Before leaving the airport, Deputy al-Husayni told reporters: We belong to the Amal Movement, which was established and is led by Imam as-Sadr. We neither accuse nor condemn anybody because in our action, we give absolute priority to the life of Imam as-Sadr and his safe return, along with his two companions Shaykh Muhammad Ya'qub and 'Abbas Sadr ad-Din. The facts we have indicate that good efforts are being exerted in this direction by major Arab leaders whose sincerity is impeccable, led by President Hafiz al-Asad. Senior Islamic quarters, led by Imam Khomeyni, are also exerting efforts.

RADIO DENIES RUMORS OF TENSION, SAYS ROAD SAFE

NC161218 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Rumors were spread this morning to the effect that tension has returned to the traditional axes, that battles are raging and that roads are being sealed off.

Beirut Radio, which contacted officials in the security commands, has learned that there was intermittent sniping in As-Sayfi and the Martyrs' Square. This, naturally, called for caution.

The roads along the rest of the traditional axes are safe and passable and have not been the scene of any security disruptions.

Forces Command Refutes Rumors

NC161615 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 16 Jan 79 NC

[16 January statement by official spokesman of the Lebanese Forces Command]

[Text] Today, tendentious rumors were spread in the eastern areas, which prompted the citizens and some officials in the educational sector to contact the Lebanese Forces Command to verify these rumors.

The Lebanese Forces Command considers these rumors to be in the context of the psychological war waged by the enemies against the Lebanese people in the wake of an aborted military attempt. Therefore, we urge the citizens not to heed these false reports. We also call on all education officials to continue teaching as usual and give the Lebanese Forces offices the names of those spreading these rumors.

At a time when the Lebanese Forces Command has succeeded in reopening schools in the southern suburb despite the difficult situation in that area, it is the duty of the educational institutions located in areas enjoying a greater degree of security to carry out their national duties.

ARAB DETERRENT FORCES REPORT 16 JAN INCIDENTS

NC162057 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jan 79 NC

[Text] An official source of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] Command has made the following statement: Today was a calm day in general on all the combat lines. However, the calm was disturbed by sporadic sniping in the commercial sector, where sniper fire was opened from the areas of As-Sayfi, the Empire area, and Ad-Dabbas in the direction of the ADF's positions in these areas. This sniping created concern among workers at the harbor, and traffic to and from the harbor lessened immediately, although it has not stopped. Eight ships are still docked, while three others have unloaded their cargo and left.

Cars equipped with loudspeakers toured the streets of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Al-Ashrafiyah and Burn ash-Shubbak, calling on the residents to go to shelters without giving any reason or justification.

The source said in conclusion: The ADF Command reassures the residents and sees no cause for any kind of concern, unless the militas are harboring some intentions against us.

SUDANESE EMBASSY DENIES CONTINGENT WITHDRAWAL REPORTS

ND161010 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 16 Jan 79 NC

[Text] The Sudanese Embassy in Beirut has categorically denied reports carried by local and other news agencies about Sudan's decision to withdraw its contingent working under the Arab Deterrent Forces.

This denial follows a meeting by Deputy Speaker Munir Abu Fadil with the Sudanese ambassador to discuss this issue.

UN SPOKESMAN DENIES ENTRY OF ISRAELI FORCES INTO SOUTH

NC161312 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 16 Jan 79 NC

[Text] The UN Emergency Forces Command in An-Naqurah held a meeting this morning. It discussed the security developments in the UN operations area. A command spokesman has stated that the reports about the entry of Israeli forces into (?Yatar) in the south are false. He also said that the French forces are still in their positions in that area.

AL-HUSS INTERVIEWED BY KUWAITI PAPER ON SITUATION IN SOUTH

NC171144 Doha QNA in Arabic 1033 GMT 17 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 17 January--Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has described the situation in southern Lebanon as disturbing and very serious.

In an interview published in today's edition of the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, Al-Huss said that Israel has exacerbated the situation in the south by inciting the rightist militias as the date for convening the Security Council to renew the UNIFIL mandate in the south approached.

Al-Huss adds: Israel aims at many things, primarily at distorting the process for renewing the mandate of these forces and at frightening them about the way their role is developing. Israel also aims at frightening the states that will send forces to the south to replace the French and Iranian forces, which are to be withdrawn. Moreover, it aims at exaggerating the idea of dispatching units of the Lebanese Army to the south within the UN Emergency Forces.

Dr al-Huss stresses that the renewal of the emergency forces mandate is inevitable. He wonders what 6,000 UN Emergency Forces can do to confront Israel, which is hiding itself behind the militias. He says that the lack of UN troops there would cause confusion among the rightist militias and the Palestinian resistance and consequently lead to Israel's interference under the pretext of defending its security.

Dr al-Huss called for separating the issue of the south from that of northern Al-Litani because this would facilitate matters. He emphasizes that Israel is using southern Lebanon as a drawing card to exert pressure on Syria and influence the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations.

In conclusion, Al-Huss expressed his belief that the Lebanese Army must ultimately be dispatched to the south to confront Sa'd Haddad and deter him because he is an enemy cooperating with Israel. He says that this measure requires both an internal Lebanese political decision and an international one.

ARAB LEAGUE'S RIYAD MAKES STATEMENT, LEAVES BEIRUT

NC162146 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad left Beirut for Kuwait this evening after having held discussions with President Ilyas Sarkis, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and senior Lebanese officials that touched on the Lebanese working paper related to reconstruction. This paper will be submitted to the Arab finance ministers conference, which will be convened next month.

Upon leaving Beirut, Riyad stated that the picture had become clear following his numerous meetings with Lebanese officials.

He added that the proposals to be submitted to the Arab states will basically depend on the research that has been conducted by the reconstruction establishment. Meanwhile, these proposals are being considered for approval by the Lebanese Government.

Riyad said: The Lebanese Government has invited the Arab finance ministers to meet in Lebanon.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES ADOPT RECOMMENDATION ON UNIFIL

NC170635 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Today President Ilyas Sarkis held consultations with Speaker Kamil al-As'ad on the general security and political situations and the two prevailing opinions on the most appropriate position for Lebanon to take at the Security Council.

After the meeting, Speaker al-As'ad returned to the Chamber of Deputies, where he chaired a joint meeting of the committees for foreign affairs and defense. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, Minister for Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Fu'ad Butrus and Minister of National Defense Gen Victor Khuri. During this meeting, debate was resumed on the most appropriate position for Lebanon to take at the UN Security Council.

As a result of the discussions and debates, and in light of the various opinions expressed at the meeting, the committees for foreign affairs and defense adopted the following recommendation, which is to be forwarded to the government.

The UN Security Council has clearly determined the tasks of the UNIFIL within the framework of two basic aims, namely:

1. To insure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied territories.

2. To help the Lebanese Government restore its effective authority in the south.

In its resolutions, the Security Council also clearly indicated the need to provide the UNIFIL with the necessary means to turn it into an effective force capable of implementing the task assigned to it.

In Article III, Clause 3 of UN Resolution 426, it is stated that these forces must be able to work as an integrated and effective military unit.

In the same resolution, Clause 4 of Article IV states that legal self-defense includes resistance to any attempt to prevent the UNIFIL from carrying out its duties in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions.

According to the aforementioned resolution, self-defense is a means for implementing the two UN resolutions.

It is obvious that the arms available to the UNIFIL should, to say the least, be effectively equivalent to any other weapons available to those groups trying to prevent the UNIFIL from carrying out its tasks. So far, the UNIFIL has not been able to carry out the task assigned to it because for all practical purposes Israel is still controlling the border area, which it occupied on 13 March 1978. On the other hand, the Lebanese Government has not been able to impose its authority on the south, which stretches from An-Naqurah to Al-Hasbani.

This failure is related, first and foremost, to the lack of the military capacity necessary to achieve the aim for which the UNIFIL has been dispatched. The extension of the UNIFIL mandate under current conditions cannot lead to achieving the desired aims but only to a continued deterioration, which might lead to the loss of the south and, in turn, threaten Lebanon's entire destiny. The United Nations bears responsibility for this situation in the context of its overall responsibility for world and regional peace and preservation of the territory of all UN member states within the limits of internationally recognized borders.

For these reasons, and in keeping with the aims and means expressed in the UN Security Council resolutions, the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies--represented by the two committees of defense and foreign affairs--asks the government, in the name of national interest and historical responsibility, to adopt an official and frank position demanding implementation of both the letter and spirit of UN Resolutions 425 and 426, which call for providing the UNIFIL with the necessary means that will turn it into a deterrent and strike force in accordance with the aforementioned clauses of these resolutions, thus allowing the UNIFIL to carry out the tasks assigned to it and achieve the aims for which it was dispatched.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON SALE OF LAND TO FOREIGNERS

JN131155 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 13 January--The Lebanese Parliamentary Justice and Administration Committee has revealed frightening information connected with the sale of land in southern Lebanon to foreign firms and parties.

The committee estimates that the deals concluded so far total 500 million Lebanese pounds. The committee warned against a conspiracy to sell the entire south.

Deputy Nazim al-Qadiri, chairman of the committee, has stated that 112 sales documents were registered last year in southern Lebanon. Of these, 100 were registered in the names of non-Lebanese individuals. He added that a legal committee had been set up to deal with the situation and foil what he termed an international scheme to fragment Lebanon.

HUSAYN MEETS WITH AL-ASAD, LEAVES DAMASCUS 16 JAN

JN162017 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn held a meeting at 1300 today. The leaders reviewed the new developments in the region and the current Arab action and exchanged views on issues of mutual interest, including international issues.

The discussions were conducted in a fraternal atmosphere, with both sides agreeing on continued contacts and coordination between the two fraternal countries.

Earlier, President Hafiz al-Asad met his majesty when he arrived at the guest palace this morning. The meeting was attended for Syria by Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, prime minister; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Mudar Badran, Jordanian prime minister; Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; and Husayn Hammai, Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

President Hafiz al-Asad hosted a banquet in honor of King Husayn. The Jordanian delegation, Prime Minister al-Halabi, Foreign Minister Khaddam and a number of ministers attended the banquet.

King Husayn left Damascus at 1800 today. He was seen off at the airport by President Hafiz al-Asad. Also present at the airport were the prime minister and a number of ministers.

King Husayn arrived in Damascus at noon today.

IRAQI MILITARY DELEGATION VISITS SYRIAN FRONT LINES

JN161411 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1340 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus, 16 January--'Adnan Khayrallah, defense minister of fraternal Iraq, and Defense Minister Maj Gen Mustafa Talas this morning visited our front lines and the liberated city of Al-Qunaytirah. They were accompanied by Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi; Staff Lt Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanhal, chief of staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces; members of the Iraqi delegation; and a number of Syrian Army officers. During their tour, the Iraqi brothers were briefed on the role of the Syrian Armed Forces and the general situation.

IRAQI-SYRIAN MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETS IN DAMASCUS

JN162013 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] The Syrian-Iraqi Joint Political and Military Committee held a meeting this evening at the Foreign Ministry. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense; and Gen ['Imad] Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of the army staff. On the Iraqi side the meeting was attended by Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of defense; Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, foreign minister; and Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, chief of the army staff.

Al-Asad Receives Committee Members

JN170759 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad last night received the members of the Syrian-Iraqi Joint Military Committee, which stemmed from the Charter for Joint National Action. The committee members had dinner with his excellency the president.

TRANSPORT MINISTER SALIM YASIN LEAVES FOR MOSCOW

JN161329 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 16 January--Dr Salim Yasin, minister of transport, left for Moscow this morning at the head of an official delegation. The delegation includes representatives of the railways, Latakia port, the large projects company and the State Planning Department. The delegation will attend meetings of the Joint Subcommittee for Transport and Communications in accordance with the protocols signed in Moscow between the Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic.

TISHRIN: SHAH'S FALL SHOWS SUPPORT FOR ARAB STRUGGLE

JN171043 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus, 17 January--In a commentary today, TISHRIN says that the meeting between the shah of Iran and As-Sadat in Aswan has a special significance for the Arabs in particular in that it exposes the forces with which As-Sadat's regime has associated itself. The paper affirms that the shah's fate was that of any ruler who practices a policy hostile to the people. Perhaps it is this similarity of fate that prompted As-Sadat to receive the shah, who left Iran after having shed the blood of its sons on the streets.

TISHRIN adds: The Arab people cannot be indifferent to what is happening in Iran. In the conflict between the forces supporting imperialism and Israel on one hand and those supporting the Arabs against Israel on the other, the sentiments of the Arabs cannot only be with the enemies of imperialism and Zionism, who are their natural allies in the battle.

The paper notes: An essential pillar of the U.S. anti-Arab policy in the Middle East has collapsed, which indicates some support for the Arab struggle against imperialism and Israel and a weakening of both Israel's stand and of the As-Sadat regime, which is part of the U.S. game against the Arabs.

The progressive weakening of the position of imperialism and Zionism in the area is due not only to the collapse of the shah's regime and the U.S. inability to create an obedient regime there, but also due to recent developments in the area in which Syria played a prominent role: the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front; the Syrian-Iraqi accord; and the unanimous Arab resolutions at the Baghdad summit conference, which rejected the Camp David agreements and condemned As-Sadat's capitulatory course.

ALGERIA

QNA: BEN BELLA REPORTEDLY TO BE RELEASED

NC151518 Doha QNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 15 January--In a dispatch from Paris quoting an informed source, the Saudi paper AL-JAZIRAH today says that the Algerian Revolution Command Council has decided to release former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella. The paper adds that the Revolution Command Council has made the release of Ben Bella conditional on his pledge not to exercise any political activities.

SOLIDARITY WITH BENIN PLEDGED ON ANNIVERSARY OF 'AGGRESSION'

LD161504 Algiers APS in French 1000 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] Algiers--Exactly 2 years ago, on 16 January 1977, the Republic of Benin was the victim of an imperialist aggression in which Morocco was to play a big part. Morocco's responsibility for the events which took place in Cotonou was indeed clearly established by the special mission of the Security Council to which the Benin Government appealed following this serious attack on the sovereignty of its country. The investigation report left no doubt as to the participation of the Rabat Government and of mercenaries in this aggression, whose aim was to overthrow the progressive regime of President Mathieu Kerekou. However, in any event, and this is proved by the failure of the aggression against Benin, progressive Africa remains more than ever mobilized to thwart the schemes woven against it by imperialism. Thus, at a time when the Republic of Benin is preparing to mark the second anniversary of its victory over the forces of aggression, revolutionary Algeria cannot but be at its side with a view to bringing about fresh successes.

LIBYA

JALLUD RECEIVES SDAR PRIME MINISTER

LD170021 Tripoli JANA in English 1814 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 16 January, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud received Mohamed Lamine, prime minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, at the People's Palace yesterday.

MAURITANIA

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES REORGANIZATION, NEW CABINET

LD162316 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] The Military Committee for National Recovery [MCNR] met this morning under Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the MCNR and head of government. The agenda included a study of the plan to reorganize the government structure as proposed by the chairman of the MCNR and head of government. The committee approved the reorganization, which is consistent with the implementation of the program for the next 2 years as set out by the chairman of the MCNR at the new year. The reorganization of the ministerial departments is intended to establish a more effective structure which responds to the requirements of planning the program itself.

Due to the reorganization of the ministries according to Order No 0/279 of 16 January 1979, the government is formed as follows:

Minister of State at the Prime Minister's Office	Cheikh Ould Mohamed Laghdaf
Minister in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the MCNR	Lt Col Mohamed Mahoud Ould Ahmed Louly
Foreign Minister	Ahmedou Ould Abdallah
Minister in charge of administering the Defense Ministry	Lt Col Maouya Ould Sidi Ahmed Taya
Minister of Interior	Maj Jiddou Ould Saleck
Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals	Maj Moulaye Ould Boukhreiss
Minister of Finance	Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara
Minister of Planning, Economic Studies and Financing	Mohamed el Miktar Ould Zamel
Minister of Equipment	Lt Col Ahmed Salem Ould Sidi
Minister of Transport, Communication, Traditional Industry and Tourism	Col Vish Ould Mayouf
Minister of Fishing and Marine Economy	Lt Col Ahmed Ould Bouceif
Minister of Development, Housing and Construction	Police Inspector Ly Mamadou
Minister of Trade, Industrialization and Mines	Ahmed Ould Zein
Minister of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform	Dr Ba Oumar
Minister of Health, Labor and Social Affairs	Dr Youssef Diagana
Minister of Islamic Affairs and Traditional Education	Ba Ould Niya
Minister of Civil Service, Higher Education and Vocational Training	Mohamed Yehdih Breideleil
Minister of Primary and Secondary Education	Seck Mame Ndiack
Minister of Culture and Information	Abdelkader Ould Die
Minister of Youth and Sport	Maj Thiam el Hadj

MOROCCO

PRIME MINISTER CONFIDENT OF OAU SETTLEMENT IN NW AFRICA

LD161132 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Rabat--Moroccan Prime Minister Ahmed Osman has stated that Morocco still has confidence in the attempts of the OAU committee of wise men to settle the crisis in northwest Africa. In a statement made during a recent visit to Cameroon, Ahmed Osman explained that the problem is not one of the Sahara but of the situation in northwest Africa. He noted that the issue is now before the OAU and that Morocco is convinced that African disputes should be settled by the Africans themselves. Speaking about his visit to Cameroon, the prime minister said that its purpose was to set up a strong link between the two countries and stressed the need to strengthen existing bilateral relations and widen cooperation.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI HAILS AS-SADAT, MAY MEET WITH MENGISTU

LD152122 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Text] Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, the president of the republic, has stressed that the meeting of the joint high ministerial committee on integration between Egypt and Sudan has great significance in terms of our actions and goals, and will achieve the objectives and aspirations of the masses in Egypt and Sudan.

After meeting the leaders and members of the committee, his excellency said their work would serve as a strong foundation for the achievement of unity, not only between Sudan and Egypt, but also among the state of the Arab nation, the Muslim world and the African Continent.

Asked about Sudan's attitude toward Egypt's efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, President Numayri said: I believe that the efforts of Egypt and President as-Sadat to achieve a settlement and peace in the Arab world are the right way, maybe the only way, to make the Arab nation a strong and united force capable of achieving more rapidly the victory it has been seeking by military means for the past 30 years.

Regarding Sudan's role in uniting the Arab ranks and the role being played by the leader president as chairman of the committee for the restoration of Arab solidarity, his excellency said: The things being said in various news media by biased people about Sudan's role will not shake or affect our clear Arab stand, which is to seek the unity of the Arab nation, eradicate all the differences afflicting the Arab nation, and fulfill the destiny and achieve the goals of our Palestinian brothers by attaining a just solution to our cause. He said that President as-Sadat's initiative is the whole sound initiative in these changing world circumstances.

Asked about the extent of cooperation between Sudan and Egypt in confronting the threats facing the African Continent, the president said that this cooperation was full and couldnot be questioned. He said: We are working together as one. We proceed from the same basis.

Asked about the expected meeting between his excellency and President Mengistu, President Numayri said: The OAU formed several committees during its last meeting whose purpose is to solve all African problems by peaceful means. Among these committees is an Ethiopia-Sudanese committee under the chairmanship of the Sierra Leone president who is working to bring about a meeting between myself and the Ethiopian president. We have welcomed this meeting which will, perhaps, be convened next month.

WESTERN SAHARA

APS: SDAR MINISTER SCORES MADRID AGREEMENTS

LD151651Y Algiers APS in French 1200 GMT 15 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The odious tripartite agreements concluded in Madrid and considered null and void by our people cannot give the right to anybody to occupy, manage or govern our country. They constitute simply an act of brigandage and usurpation, violating all charters proclaimed by international bodies, conventions and principles of international law in force, Mohamed Salem Ould Salek, minister of information of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [DSAR] said in a statement published yesterday. They intend to organize it on two levels: First, to deny its sovereignty by posing illegally as an administration authority; and second, to commit a serious aggression against its territorial integrity by making a vain attempt to confirm its partition. Indeed, the SDAR minister of information said, in view of the POLISARIO Front, for anyone to attach himself to the Madrid agreement, which is in fact dead following the attacks upon it by our people, amounts to a will to continue this war of colonial invasion against our people.

Moreover, the UN General Assembly has just confirmed the right of the Saharan people to independence and confirmed the POLISARIO as their legitimate national vanguard on the international arena. This occurred after the fourth congress of the POLISARIO which clearly defined the just framework of a durable and just peace demanding respect for the soverignty of the Saharan people and the territorial integrity of the DSAR, which necessarily implies a withdrawal of the troops of the foreign invaders.

Our government, which has not spared any effort of good will, will remain open to any proposal by our adversaries in order to achieve this by peaceful negotiations.

We insist on reiterating once more the determination of our people to struggle resolutely to achieve their legitimate national aspirations and recognition of the rights, the SDAR information minister said.

SAHARAN FIGHTERS ATTACK GARRISON OF MOROCCAN SOLDIERS

LD161415 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The POLISARIO Front has issued a military communique reporting that on 10 January the Saharan fighters attacked a garrison of the occupying Moroccan Royal Forces in Guelta Zemmur. The communique pointed out that the assault resulted in the killing of 12 royalist soldiers and the wounding of 10 others. The communique adds that the fighters rained bullets on the invading forces which resulted in the destruction of a number of the invaders' targets in the garrison and set fire to a weapons and ammunition store and also to shelters and trenches of the occupation soldiers.

SAHARA'S 'BOUMEDIENE' OFFENSIVE TO CONTINUE 'UNTIL VICTORY'

LD151337 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 10 Jan 79 p 6 LD

[APS report: "The Moroccan Monarchy Is in the Process of Outlawing Its Country Among the Nations"]

[Text] Paris--"Recovering their full rights to national sovereignty and territorial integrity is, in the Saharan people's eyes, a fundamental demand," Mohamed Ould Sidati, Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] minister of state and adviser to the prime minister, declared yesterday, adding that "the armed struggle taking place at present in the context of the 'Houari Boumediene' offensive will continue until victory is won."

With regard to the recent Mauritanian statements in favor of peace, the West Saharan minister said during a brief visit to Paris: "The Mauritanian leaders cannot deny the urgent need for a settlement, but they still need to take concrete action in the interests of their people and ours and--why not?--in the interests of all the peoples in the area."

Declaring that the Moroccan monarchy "is in the process of outlawing its country among the nations," Ould Sidati mentioned the worldwide diplomatic successes recorded by the POLISARIO and the role Africa is called on to assume in favor of the Saharan people's struggle.

"Africa is urged more strongly than ever to recognize the SDAR, in accordance with the OAU Charter and as a means of thwarting the maneuvers of the Moroccan leaders and those who support them in their macabre work of destabilization and warmongering. The Rabat authorities, which have plunged all the region's peoples into war, reject any solution and intend to impose their will on everyone," Ould Sidati continued.

BEGIN MEETS WITH KNESSET SECURITY, FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TA161530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The prime minister said today that Israel had asked the United States for the full version of the Egyptian foreign minister's letter to Cyrus Vance, but that the Americans had refused to provide it. According to him, the Americans said that the letter, which consists of 16 pages, touches on many bilateral issues that had to do with Egypt and the United States only, and for this reason Israel was given only a summary of the letter in the meetings Ambassador Lewis had with the foreign minister and the prime minister.

Mr Begin, who was speaking at a meeting of the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, added that in the Egyptian answers included in that letter there is nothing new as far as Egypt's positions on controversial issues are concerned.

Further Remarks

TA161806 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said today that Israel would have preferred that the negotiations with Egypt be resumed on a ministerial level and be conducted in the Middle East region. The prime minister appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee today and our correspondent Zvi Lidar reports about the discussion in the committee.

[Lidar--begin recording] The prime minister said today that Israel proposed in the talks with Ambassador Lewis that the ministerial-level talks be held in the Sinai, or alternating between Cairo and Washington. However, when the Americans proposed talks on the level of experts, the government did not object to this, thus leading to Atherton's mission.

In the course of the discussion developing in the committee today, MK Abba Eban expressed doubts about the great importance Israel attached to international law in the negotiations. He referred to the latest events in Iran and on the eastern front, saying that the new political structure in the Middle East creates urgency to reach a settlement with Egypt before a large anti-Israel front develops.

MK Sarid also supports a speedy signing of a peace treaty. Time is working against us, he said, and if we do not sign a peace treaty now under acceptable conditions, we will receive an imposed solution.

This fear of an imposed agreement led MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir to opposite conclusions. In his opinion, Israel, because of the situation created in the region, may be subject to heavy pressure on the part of the United States and therefore, at time out in the negotiations is required.

The discussion did not end today; it will be continued on Friday.

At the beginning of the meeting MK Gad Ya'acobi raised the issue of the prime minister's agreement, during his visit in the United States, to give up the U.S. grant. This issue had been transferred by the Knesset plenum to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. Gad Ya'acobi claimed that we must not give up a U.S. grant and that Israel is entitled to compensation for its investments in the Sinai amounting, since the 6-day war, to $8 billion.

Conceding the grant, Ya'acobi said, will increase the deficit in the state budget, will increase inflation and will make Israel dependent on the United States politically and economically. The prime minister answered this by saying that there has been a misunderstanding with the United States, but it has been cleared up. The Americans now knew that we have not given up the grant for the establishment of the airfields in the Negev. Nevertheless, he added, the matter has not been concluded yet since the scope of investment in establishing the airfields is not known yet and swings between $1-2 billion. The negotiations on this continue and we, Mr Begin summed up, will insist on our demand. [end recording]

ATHERTON ARRIVES IN ISRAEL TO 'PAVE WAY' FOR TALKS

TA161522Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[Text] U.S. diplomat Alfred Atherton came to Israel this afternoon, accompanied by the State Department's legal adviser. They were received by the director of the prime minister's office.

Alfred Atherton said at the airport that the objective of his visit was to pave the way for talks between Israel and Egypt at a ministerial level.

First Meeting Over

TA171150 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 17 Jan 79 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Special U.S. Ambassador Alfred Atherton is now dining with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. As was planned in advance, the two are talking while eating about general matters concerning what is happening in the world: in Iran and Cambodia. It is clear that the matter of negotiations will be brought up in this talk, even if in a noncommital way. This morning Atherton held his first meeting with the Israeli team headed by the director general of the prime minister's office, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar. Our political correspondent, Shalom Qital, reports from our Knesset studio about that meeting.

[Qital--live] The first meeting did not give away any hint of unusual developments in the negotiations. Atherton has come to examine the possibilities for continuing the negotiations at a higher level. The first meeting dealt with an analysis of the positions of the sides and a definition of the gaps, more in the form of a survey of what exists than that of recommendations for the future. During the talk, Alfred Atherton and Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar recalled happier days, when they sat at the head of their delegations in Cairo, 13 months ago. At the end of the meeting, which took place in the prime minister's office, the remarks sounded less dramatic than they did then, in Cairo. Atherton and Ben-Elisar made general remarks. [begin recording]

[Atherton--in English] These have been very serious talks on serious subjects and we will be carrying them on this afternoon and then on for several more days, and I think I would want to leave it at that, for the moment, unless my colleague, Mr Ben-Elisar, has anything he would like to add.

[Ben-Elisar--in English] I do agree with all you have already said, that it was a good meeting and we are meeting between friends. [end recording]

[Qital] For the moment, I return you from the Knesset studio to the Newsreel studio.

Settlement Issue

TA171240 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The issue of settlement in the territories was not brought up this morning in the talk between the teams of officials and legal experts of Israel and the United States. This is reported by our correspondent Jerry Cheslow. This morning's talks were short and will be resumed this afternoon. A U.S. source told our correspondent that no meetings have been arranged for Ambassador Atherton with people from the territories.

MK Arens Comments

TA161628 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee today held a political discussion with the participation of Prime Minister Menahem Begin. The discussion did not end and will continue in one of the committee's future meetings. After the debate the chairman of the committee, Prof Moshe Arens, told our correspondent that he does not pin many hopes on the talks to be held by Atherton and Hansell in the region. According to Arens, the problem now is the need for a basic change in Egypt's position. Our political correspondent Yosi 'Abadi talked with Professor Arens.

[begin recording] [Arens] I think that the talks with Mr Atherton and Mr Hansell will not be more than informational talks intended to learn where each party stands at this stage and throught this to reach a conclusion as to when, where and whether to continue the talks on a higher level.

[Question] Will a failure of the Atherton and Hansell talks mean the development of a stalemate in the negotiations and will we, for instance, reach the stage where only a summit meeting will be able to solve the problems?

[Answer] According to my assessment, in order to make progress in the negotiations and hopefully conclude them successfully there must be a change in the Egyptian position. I will not refer to issues such as Article IV, Article VI or the target date spoken of by all, but rather to the substantive aspect over which we are at adds with the Egyptians. I am referring to the issue of linkage, the link between the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations and the future negotiations regarding the fate of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

[Question] If so, if the problems are substantive and not legal, what is the point of holding talks on the level of legal experts?

[Answer] I think that the proposal is a U.S. proposal. I do not exactly know what the objective of the visit is and about which aspect of the treaty they want to talk. They may think it is possible to find solutions or partial solutions in the legal sphere. I do not share this opinion and that is why I do not entertain many hopes regarding the effectiveness of this visit, its ability to pull the negotiations out of their present situation. [end recording]

DINITZ FAVORS COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION TO MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE

TA161110 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jan 79 p 2 TA

[By HA'ARETZ parliamentary correspondent]

[Text] Former Ambassador Simcha Dinitz told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday that he thinks that the preferred solution to the Middle East dispute is the comprehensive one which the United States has always supported. Anwar as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem was, from this aspect, in contradiction with the U.S. moves. Dinitz expressed the view that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's working paper fulfilled an important role in the negotiating process. According to him, it is essential to understand the U.S. concept aiming at a comprehensive solution--an aim that sometimes makes it appear as though Washington's position is even more extremist than that of Cairo.

There was an exchange between Dinitz and MK Yitzhak Rabin. Rabin claimed that there was no functional link between the agreement with Egypt and the commitments in Judaea and Samaria, apart from the question of the exchange of ambassadors. Dinitz said that the agreement with Egypt should not be linked with the agreement on Judaea and Samaria.

GUR WARNS AGAINST CEDING RAFAH SETTLEMENTS

TA162004 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Former Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur today leveled strong criticism against ceding the settlements in the Rafah approaches before Israel has reached any tangible form of relations with the Arab states. Mr Gur was speaking at a meeting of the movement No Further, whose objective is to fight against the removal of settlements and for defensible borders.

Reserve Lieutenant General Gur added that anyone contending that in future wars territories are of no importance is very wrong. For example, if no warning stations are set up in Judaea and Samaria, the air force will have only a 37-second warning to defend the center of Israel.

SECURITY ELEMENTS DENY COMPLAINTS OF TORTURE

TA161107 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jan 79 p 10 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Text] Yesterday the military government banned teachers and students from the Bi'r Zayt University from attending a news conference held in Bet Agron in Jerusalem under the aegis of the "Committee for a Just Peace" between Israel and the Arab countries.

Yesterday the vice president of the university, Dr (Gabi Bermaqi), placed announcements in Arabic and English on the notice board of the college, stating that the military governor of Ramallah had invited Dr (Bermaqi) to his office the day before yesterday at 2100 [local time] and informed him that Rakah was holding a meeting in Bet Agron on the issue of the denial of freedom of speech in the Bi'r Zayt University.

The governor of Ramallah announced, in accordance with the announcements, that the commander of the Judaea and Samaria area had forbidden the lectures and had forbidden students to attend that meeting. Anyone who attended, it was said, would be punished severely.

The military government confirmed last night that students and lecturers from the Bi'r Zayt University had been forbidden to attend the news conference because attendance of this sort, according to the military government, was political activity, banned in the West Bank.

At the news conference (where there was lively attendance, especially foreign correspondents) representatives of the "Committee for a Just Peace," Prof Yisra'el Lef (who described himself as a member of Sheli) and members of the Central Committee of Rakah 'Uzi Burstein and lawyer Felicia Langer reported that about 20 students from the Bi'r Zayt University had been arrested after the Camp David agreements. All of them had only been accused of political activity. Some of the students had been released. They had complained of having been tortured while under arrest and of interrogation.

It was also stated that the Bi'r Zayt University authorities were complaining of blows directed at academic freedom, of a ban by the Israeli authorities on receiving literature which was permitted in the State of Israel and of lecturers and students being obstructed.

Lawyer Langer said that of the 20 students who had been arrested, four had been tortured and that she had seen marks of burns and scars on their bodies. She said that all the interrogations held and all the questions asked by the security personnel were on issues of political activity, especially that of the autonomy and President as-Sadat's initiative.

She said she had submitted a complaint to the minister of defense.

The Rakah spokesman, 'Uzi Burstein, said that for the first time in the history of the state, people were forbidden to attend a news conference.

It will be noted that security elements are denying the claims of the Bi'r Zayt University personnel. According to them, the arrests were made for purely security reasons and those being interrogated were not tortured while detained.

AMMAN BANKS EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF OPENING W. BANK BRANCHES

TA161836 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Amman banks have contacted financiers in the West Bank about the opening of branches in the territories. A Bethlehem financier told our correspondent, Pinhas 'Inbari, that when he was in Amman last week a director of one of the large banks contacted him and suggested that he become a director of a branch in his town.

There is no political approval for this from Amman yet, but Jordanian financiers are already interested in the possibilities that will open up to them with the establishment of the autonomy.

Our correspondent points out that after an approval was given for the opening of a Falastin Bank in the Gaza Strip, Nabulus businessmen have decided to open a local bank but have not yet filed an official request to do so.

MA'ARIV ON ATTITUDES TOWARD SYRIA-IRAQ UNIFICATION

TA161232 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Jan 79 p 17 TA

['Oded Granot commentary: "A Syrian-Iraqi Military Infrastructure Is More Dangerous Than an Immediate 'Unification'"]

[Excerpts] Israel is scrupulously checking all reports of the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement, which is the most significant answer the Arab rejectionist front could have given to President as-Sadat's peace initiative.

Israeli experts are proposing two ways of weighing the significance of the Syrian-Iraqi "romance": by comparing the current position of the relations with what prevailed before the charter for cooperation was signed last October, and by comparing other precedents of "unifications," "combinations" and "federations" in the Arab world.

From the aspect of the developments in Damascus-Baghdad relations over the last 4 months, the very fact of the agreement to open contacts on cooperation in various spheres shows that there is no doubt that the two countries have made a giant breakthrough in the wall of historic enmity between them. The practical form th[illegible]s taken in the political plans has been Syria's willingness to support the Iraqi initiative for an Arab summit conference in Baghdad and in the area of daily life stopping the propaganda in the press and the communications media, the cancellation of the customs duties and entrance visas at the border and an agreement in principle on a renewal of piping Iraqi oil via Syrian territory.

In the military sphere no great progress has yet been made, particularly because of several difficulties, some of which also involve the special relations between the two countries and Moscow. Nevertheless in this sphere, too, the contacts have been given a new impetus since the Syrian minister of defense returned from the Soviet Union and since the announcement about convening the military committee.

As opposed to this, Israeli experts say that a brief examination of the unification attempts in the Arab world in the not so distant past show a big story of failure. Some of them were never put into operation at all and others collapsed within a short space of time.

Because of this it cannot be assumed that a unification between Syria and Iraq, even if an official declaration is made on establishing it on this or that date, will indeed be put into operation in the form of a unification of the two countries.

However, there is no trend toward denigrating the military significance of a continuation of the Baghdad-Damascus rapprochement and the possibility that at this stage or another an Iraqi Army will enter Syria and a basis will be laid for military cooperation against Israel. This cooperation will also incorporate the PLO, which is at present to a great extend under Syrian control.

Israeli elements are saying that, from Israel's viewpoint, there is much greater danger in the slow, gradual and secret construction of an infrastructure of military cooperation between Syria and Iraq over a period of time than in the entry of Iraqi units into Syria at this stage, which would be an open provocation at once focusing the world's attention on what is happening on the northern border. It appears that the Soviets are also thinking along these lines and it may be assumed that they have warned Syrian and Iraqi leaders, who recently visited Moscow, against a rushed and uncontrolled military move against Israel.

JERUSALEM COMMENTS ON DEPARTURE OF SHAH FROM IRAN

TA162001 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Our political correspondent reports that the assessment in Jerusalem is that the shah's removal from power constitutes the collapse of a northern layer of the West in our region. Political circles in Jerusalem pointed out that the lesson of the events is that Israel must not rely on foreign elements.

The circles noted that Israel had expected what was likely to occur in Iran and that the necessary arrangements were made to insure that the stocks of oil available to the country are not harmed.

YADIN COMMENTS ON EFFECTS OF IRANIAN CRISIS ON ISRAEL

TA161245 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Speaking about the Iranian situation and how it will affect Israel was Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin, who has begun a 1-week visit to the United States. He is meeting there with government officials and Jewish leaders. Here is a report from Judy Lessing in New York.

[Begin recording] Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin, meeting with members of the conference of presidents of major Jewish organizations in New York, has said he believes the grave situation in Iran could expedite negotiations between Israel and Egypt. What happens in Iran affects Israel, Egypt and the United States in different ways, he said.

[Yadin] Even before the events in Iran, we were concerned [about] what's going to happen with our oil supply if we withdraw from the Sinai and leave the oil wells. And even then we said that the agreement must include reassurance for Israel that it will be able to get its oil in the same terms--commercially and otherwise--which will fit its obligations and economy. Now, of course, with these developments in Iran, I want to tell you that those who oppose the Camp David agreement in Israel say: Here you are, now we shall withdraw from the Sinai, and what will happen with our oil?

[Lessing] The situation in Iran could also have a bearing on Saudi Arabia, said the deputy prime minister. He thinks the Saudis should study what's happening there and give their support to President as-Sadat's position because this would be best for them and for the whole area, in his opinion. [end recording]

MK ARENS ASKS U.S. TO WARN SYRIA AGAINST SHELLING BEIRUT

TA161831 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Moshe Arens, is demanding that the United States warn the Syrians against continuing to shell the Christian quarters of Beirut.

In a telegram Arens sent to the head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Frank Church, he says that if the Syrians are not warned against continuing the shelling they may revert to the technique of massive shellings and the killing of thousands of Lebanese civilians.

PRIME MINISTER BAKHTIAR SPEAKS IN MAJLIS DEBATE

ID161600 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1050 GMT 16 Jan 79 ID

[Speech by Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar at the Majlis session on 16 January--recorded]

[Text] Honorable Mr Speaker, Honorable Deputies: 16 or 17 years ago I opened a speech at Jalaliyeh Square with the following poem, which I repeat today as I am still bound by the same principles and the same views: [poem indistinct]

A number of honorable deputies have made certain remarks in support of our criticizing the government's program. In describing their views, I must say, they dwelt more than moderation would require on the past, and less on the government's program itself, although the remarks made by most gentlemen were very instructive. As you are aware, I do not have enough time to reply to remarks made by each of you, and perhaps most of the points raised can be summarized in three or four sentences.

One of the issues raised by everyone here concerned the corruption of previous governments, and this occupied perhaps 80 percent of the speeches. The honorable gentlemen know that neither I nor virtually any of my colleagues had any part in [words indistinct] problems which have caused the troubles. We were not prepared, under any circumstances, to come out of our isolation during this period. A dear friend, an honorable deputy and a university professor, accused me of having worked in a firm and of receiving a salary. I regard this as the utmost honor for me. If some 5 percent of the shares of this firm belonged to the Pahlavi Foundation, I will not regard it as a shameful thing for me either. What is (?relevant), however, is that I first worked and then received payment; I made a living from the work I put in. I consider this payment, and will consider it as clean. [assent from the floor]

[Words indistinct] and was mentioned, I deem it necessary to explain it more clearly. A message was brought to me on behalf of the Zahedi government [which succeeded the Mosaddeq government in 1953] (?Either choose politics or a firm in which most of the shares belong to Iranians, with 35 percent belonging to the French). This French steel firm had not capital stake from Pahlavi Foundation. The Pahlavi Foundation had taken over the lands which had been nationalized earlier, perhaps at half the going price, and wanted to sell them to this firm at 300-400 rials a square meter. I objected to this because nationalized land should not be given to anyone at half price in the first place. [words indistinct]. From that day I left the firm and for 11 months now I have had no position in that firm. This was a point to clarify and I will say no more about various aspects of my own life. This is because my life is well known to most of you gentlemen and I hope there is no ambiguity about it.

As I have said, at the earliest opportunity competent courts will deal with the offenders cited here. I deem it necessary to inform you that interrogation of General Nasiri, the former SAVAK chief, has already started. This is no joke. Either I will go or will see to it that all offenders receive the punishment they deserve--that is, the courts that have been formed will mete out their punishment with severity and speed.

The second bill [as heard] to be presented to you gentlemen at the earliest opportunity concerns the dissolution of SAVAK, which had established a rule of Mongolian ruthlessness in the provinces [words indistinct]. Perhaps no one has suffered more from this organization [than myself]. It may be true that I was not sent to certain cells because of my age and my position, but I can tell you that I have been in cells where I could neither pray nor exercise.

I mention this because some of you gentlemen pointed out: You are dissolving SAVAK only to replace it with something similar. This is not so. No government on earth can survive without security police; [murmers of assent] East or West, North or South, all must have a security appartus, and one of the reasons for the fall of the late Dr Mosaddeq's government (?his place be with Allah) [in Arabic] was the very fact that he did not have a police [intelligence organization]. Otherwise, those gangsters who had come to Mehrabad Airport would have been arrested on the spot.

Police should place intelligence material at the government's disposal and the government, in the light of its policy and plans, should adopt the appropriate decision. At any rate, I hope these barbaric actions will not be repeated in this land and we will never have to face torture for our views, for reading a certain book or making certain remarks. But some people might take free-wheeling and their happy-go-lucky attitude to the point of treachery and crime. When this happens the government must react. If we leave everybody to say whatever they like, this is still tolerable. But if we leave them free to do whatever they want to do, this country cannot last, no matter how patriotic your sentiments.

A 10-day-old government should not be expected to rectify overnight all the difficulties, corruption and bankruptcies of previous governments; a minimum period of time must be allowed. Some goodwill should be exercised, so that we may see immediately whether we are going in the direction we have indicated, or whether it is all words and speeches and statements, such as have been experienced over the past 25 years.

A point was raised regarding those eminent ayatollahs who are not with us. I do not regard it as proper for an ayatollah to express support for a specific government by name. The position of the eminent ayatollahs is far above entering the political arena in the way you and I are engaged here. They should guide and direct us in their spiritual capacity and tell us that the government should in this or that issue be inspired by the spirit and noble teachings of Islam. Their job is [words indistinct]; ours is to respect them, theirs is to guide us.

One point I should make in this regard, which I informed you about before my appointment as prime minister, concerns the Awqaf. Unfortunately, this organization has been administered in such an appalling manner and so contrary to Islamic principles that I was forced to suspend its activity for the time being to enable the eminent ayatollahs to send representatives to administer the Awqaf freely and handle its disbursements for religious purposes. The government will only be their accountant and nothing else.

As to the second point, I wish to inform you that I have given instructions that as of today whichever of you gentlemen has the means and wishes to do so can travel to the holy places as many times as possible in order to carry out your religious precepts without any conditions. Of course, this issue does not affect us alone, since the Iraqi Government, too, might have its opinions on this issue. But as far as the Iranian Government's opinion is concerned, there is no objection here. And just as all you gentlemen are aware, a certain government came to power and, without consulting the Majlis, increased the existing dues from 100 to 200 rials. This measure was unlawful, as every lawyer knows, and I will reverse this to 100 rials as previously.

My dear Azerbayjani friend, Mr Eshaqineshad, if you were to obtain a vote of confidence from this Majlis when you have no base among the people--I have read your remarks and I do not think you realized what you were saying--I would consider you as the representative of the people; otherwise I would not have come here and I would have merely declared myself prime minister, Sir, as many have done. I have even come before you for your vote and consent, and only when I receive a vote denoting my failure and your lack of confidence as expressed by this vote will I leave this place. Otherwise I will do nothing of the sort. But I do not believe this (?insult) was aimed at me; it was aimed at the [words indistinct]. But I do not think he really believed what he said.

Another one or two of the honorable deputies chose to emphasize the question of why I left my erstwhile comrades-in-arms and political friends. I cannot tell you any more than this, that I see most of these gentlemen every day and often I cooperate with them. You say that these people are not made of sufficient mettle. These gentlemen all possess virtue and patriotism and all the attributes any Iranian should possess. The only thing is that their tactics are different. Why should this apply to Iran alone? In Europe you notice that within organized political parties such phenomena are very evident. But as there has been talk about this subject I deem it necessary to show the gentlemen the paper which was sent (?to) his imperial majesty (?20 months) ago (?requesting the appointment) of Dr Karim Sanjabi, Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar and Daryush Foruhar. Might I say that the text of the (?statement) is (?known) to you all now; only 20 months ago it was dangerous.

Our demands, set out in the final part, were: The only path for a return to faith, a single entity, national cooperation and, in a nutshell, salvation from bottlenecks and Iran's future problems lies in the renunciation of despotic government; absolute (?faith) in the principles of constitutionalism; the revival of the rights of the nation; genuine respect for the constitution--and I depend on this constitution--and for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the renunciation of the one-party system; freedom of the press--which I have granted; freedom of assembly--which I have granted; and the release of prisoners--which I have accomplished--and of political exiles, whoever wants to come back, in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the elected representatives of the nation. These were the principles which fused us together. I did not give an undertaking for more than this, nor am I prepared to give an undertaking for more than this.

Moreover, history fully demonstrates that this is not the first time that [word indistinct] should share the same trench and differ from one another on certain issues. The heroic struggles of this nation, just as you gentlemen pointed out, have (?taken place) on all levels; and I do not believe that in such a short period any nation can mobilize so much massed power against suppression, nor do I believe that any nation can boast of so many gains in such a short time on all levels in the realm; for the students, university staff, workers, bazaar merchants and the knowledgeable ulema, who of course took the lead in this quest.

We believe and continue to believe that those friends who were with me think like me. If you wish I will duplicate the constitution of the National Front and then you will see that what is in my program can also be found there; and perhaps I even gave more in the program than they did. Therefore, whichever individual becomes prime minister is no political yardstick. [Words indistinct] which I overlook and I hope that the gentlemen would overlook also. [shouts of approval]

[Words indistinct] you chose the first path, that is, struggle; and in our opinion this is the path of salvation. Otherwise, [word indistinct] and opportunism to the effect that nature and the universe should take over, and that we should sit (?idle) until the country emerges from the deadlock; then I could become the prime minister. This could have also been achieved by Mr Hoveyda. [shouts of agreement] [Words indistinct] a man should sacrifice himself for the country when the country needs him. Those who continually talk about the land of Iran, the Iranian blood, the Iranian nerve, Iranian skin--I have a family that goes back 700 years in this very Iran. If I do not have a family that goes back more than 700 years perhaps this is because the people did not know [words indistinct].

I and the colleagues I have chosen in this government will never claim that the final aim of the revolution of the Iranian nation and people and the (?aspirations) of the martyrs of this genuine nation will come to fruition with our government alone. We are a means between the Iran of the past, which was in the grip of oppression and corruption, and the bright new Iran which should to be built. We are no more than a bridge. And when Iran reaches the uplands of progress and advancement, just as we have come, with moral courage and in an agreeable manner, we will stay if you wish, and if not we will leave. No one has a monopoly on patriotism. No one has the right to say: I can understand the interests of the Iranian realm in a way that others cannot.

Mr Hasan 'Ali Soleymani, the honorable deputy from Mianeh, called for the lifting of censorship from the radio and television in carrying out the government's social democratic program. I should inform him that a day before being appointed as prime minister I invited to my house the representatives of the papers KEYHAN, ETTELA'AT and the other mass circulation papers who wanted to come, and I told them: You have complete freedom to write whatever you wish. Put forward the issues any way you wish. Of course, from the patriotic point of view, I do not want to say [words indistinct], but you yourselves must think of the country under the present conditions, and of how we have beset the country with difficulties and should save and govern it. The (?gentlemen) then left, and the next day they were free and they continue to be so, and as long as I am here they will be free.

Now for the radio and television: I neither can nor wish to grant this freedom to the same extent to radio and television. In all the countries in Europe, even over the BBC which you have often heard, the government exercises very strict control. All the French television stations, all the television stations in Western Europe, which are run with public funds, are forced to obey certain controls in this respect.

The regrettable aspect of this is really ludicrous. Here are people who possess SAVAK dossiers, all of whom have been selected by SAVAK and have become part of our radio and television system, who now shout the loudest about freedom, and return [words indistinct] freedom. I do not name them because the honor of every Iranian should be safeguarded. But if they resort to plots and provocations to make 1130 replace 1200 hours--to follow the Europeans as they wish to become liberals--these people are making a mistake. Any liberal government that may come to power, whether the Ayatollah Khomeyni or a social democratic party, no matter what liberal may wish to govern this country, they will know these people; and as for these people, I believe it is in their interest not to speak any more than they already have. [shouts of agreement]

I want to ask you, honorable deputies, about what this freedom means, and how such individuals can be accepted, who until yesterday were the favorites of the SAVAK apparatus, who have now set up a group called the Association of the Founders of Iranian Radio and Television. The founders of Iranian radio go back 50 years, but as for these people in Iranian television, please ask for their names so that I can show you how 9 out of 18 were appointed by the apparatus itself, with what salaries and with what advantages, and how they have used your money and that of the Iranian people in order to travel at home and abroad.

Now the most interesting point: I assure the right honorable gentlemen that my government will never resort to [word indistinct] autocracy or disregard for public opinion. Anyone ignoring public opinion and the people's wishes might stay in power for 5 days, 5 months or even a few years, but he will leave with the curse and condemnation of the people. Hoveyda passed away before death, but Dr Mosaddeq, though dead, is still alive. [shouts of agreement]

The Right Honorable Ahmad Torbati made some remarks about the problems with Afghan subjects. As pointed out in the government program, the government's policy is based on the principle of peaceful coexistence. My government will spare no efforts to secure the principle of peaceful coexistence. It is reported that a great number of armed Afghans have arrived in Iran legally and illegally and have created unrest in eastern [word indistinct] and many central cities. As I pointed out and as you have seen, some 190 of them were arrested in front of Tehran's main bazaar. Our people must remain alert, otherwise foreigners' plots, taking various forms, will lead to clashes between the people and the army and result in chaos in the country. A tired nation will not be able to reap the fruit of revolution. I said that the nation might have reached the verge of disintegration; this could be the final shot in the heart of any Iranian. When I say they cause clashes among our youth through false propaganda, this should be no news to you. I beg every single individual in this country to express his wishes loud, clearly and freely.

Whatever I can do, I will do with sincerity and effort. However, I repeat: I did not take over to see even 1 centimeter of Iranian soil disappear. Without entertaining any chauvinism, as some members of society might, I personally believe that we must live in freedom and allow others to live in freedom as well.

Concluding my speech, I would like to refer to remarks made by the Right Honorable Pezeshkpur regarding the Persian Gulf situation, and my remarks that we will not be the Persian Gulf's policeman. The Persian Gulf was not really a problem for us; it was a reality. Then we started to turn it into a problem, as you know, in order to help the bosses of colonialism. What happened was that we undertook the expenses, that is Britain, the United States and other Western countries told us: (?up to here) is yours and the safeguarding of the rest will be undertaken by us; so they told us: You are responsible for the security of this part. Well, I intend to protect the route belonging to Iran, that is, Iran's territorial waters or any area connected with the freedom of navigation. However, I have no national duty to finance the colonialists' oil tankers, by spending billions of dollars, in Chah Bahar and other areas. [shouts of approval] What I should do is to spend these billions in other areas, to improve conditions for the inhabitants of Kerman and the inhabitants of Baluchestan.

What I am expected to do is to play the role of policeman for oil tankers belonging to the big powers. No. If the British, the United States or the French Government want to buy oil, we will sell to them at international and OPEC prices, but they will have to ship it and transport it. When they leave, the route remains open, unless there is a world war, but then why should I start this world war? These gentlemen who buy the oil and [words indistinct] have the necessary security. These agreements were signed with international contractors and there were individuals who had connections with Iranian authorities for this purpose. Some day, I will work out in figures the cost of playing the role of policeman in the Persian Gulf, so that you may see that we have spent tens of billions--obviously, I mean in dollars.

When I said we have no intention of becoming a policeman, I was saying something extremely (?journalistic). Otherwise, the Persian Gulf remains the Persian Gulf. Those giving it another name are of two types: They are either extremely illiterate and stupid--pay attention, from about 1,800 years ago there are still (?maps) which bear the name Persian Gulf. Even the Soviet Government used the term Persian Gulf in its last encyclopedia. If you are happy enough with the words Persian Gulf, then I should say that it already belongs to us.

As for the other type who unjustly claim that the gulf is something else, they most certainly have self-seeking intentions. I hope that once the unfraternal relations with some of these governments are changed, God willing, these problems will be solved fairly, so that such problems will not arise again. In any case, the nature of the Persian Gulf and its importance to our country is undeniable. However, this does not mean that we should become a policeman, at our own expense and for the benefit of others.

Finally, I want to raise a few fundamental points which I might have forgotten during my talks. First of all, all their eminences share the same belief in the fraternity of the people, the army and the security forces. Consequently, we will act upon this with the alertness and care commensurate with the position of their eminences. The existence of a powerful, organized, mighty, mobile and patriotic army is the basis for our country's independence and territorial integrity. [shouts of agreement] Those insulting the Iranian Army in certain ways are nurturing vain hopes. [shouts of agreement] If we see a corrupt officer in the army, this does not prove that the army is corrupt. [shouts of agreement] We must purge the army of the corrupt elements, as we must in the cause of all other departments and government ministries. [shouts of agreement] My hope is that the security forces will enjoy the respect they deserve from the people and from their representatives.

My hope is that the importance of the army, especially now, under the present circumstances, is borne in mind, for to weaken the army's morale is to weaken the Iranian people's morale in achieving solidarity and fraternity.

One of my dear friends asks for some remarks on the 19 August coup d'etat. Dear friend, this belongs to the past. I have written so much and spoken so extensively about this coup that I beg to be excused. This is a story narrated in every bazaar. The very people who staged the coup d'etat have already confessed and admitted it. What more can I say?

Another point I wish to bring up is that about 100 corrupt SAVAK agents have been expelled so far. Obviously, the corrupt individuals will be tried, but it is not fair to say that all of them are corrupt; it is not fair to say that even a typist working in SAVAK must be executed. This is extremism which must be avoided. We must avoid the situation wherein we are either under the oppression of a dictorial regime or turn to total anarchy.

I also wish to draw your attention to a university problem, which I forgot to include in the government program. The university (?opened) last week. As I promised, regarding their freedom, the teaching staffs in these universities, the professors themselves, will elect deans of colleges and chancellors of the universities. Afterward, the government will create a coordinating council under the supervision of prominent Iranian professors. A bill in this regard will be submitted later. However, for now, all the appointed college deans have already submitted their resignations to me. I then asked all of them, that is, the professors and associate professors, to appoint college deans. So, when one claims to secure freedom, one does not lie [words indistinct]. It is up to the university staff to make arrangements for their own comings and goings, salaries, benefits and so forth. It is not proper to have a minister, who is here today and gone tomorrow, who replaces someone with his own friends, to do these things. These things should be done freely by those concerned.

My final point: I heard yesterday that around 500 houses have been built by the government which are not being used by the army. The only thing is that these houses still lack water and electricity. I notified the chief of the supreme commander's staff that these houses must be turned over to minor officials, that is, ordinary policemen or police NCO's in Tehran. If these people want to use them even without water and electricity by providing their own facilities, it will be perfectly proper. I hope that within the next 48 hours 500 families will move into these houses. [shouts of approval]

Recording of Majlis Debate

LD161450 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1100 GMT on 16 January carries a recording of the debate in the extraordinary meeting of the Majlis this morning on the projected program of the new government of Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar.

After a 35-minute speech by Prime Minister Bakhtiar, the radio carries a speech by the unnamed deputy for Miandoab, who urges the government to see to the pressing needs of the people in respect of the supplies of food and the general economic activity within the country. The deputy continues by stressing the government's responsibilities for democratic liberties, human rights, the campaign against corruption, for realizing the total independence of the universities, and the revitalization of agriculture and the oil industry. He asks the prime minister what the foreign colonialist experts are doing in Iran, saying that their numbers should be minimized and that Iranian workers should be accorded the maximum opportunity of conducting the country's affairs.

At this point the radio interrupts its recording to broadcast a communique of the Tehran military governorate.

The radio continues its recording of the proceedings of the Majlis debate with a speech by Pezeshkpur, deputy for Khorramabad, who says that Iran is undergoing one of the most sensitive periods in its history. He emphasizes that it is the duty of every patriotic Iranian to defend the unity and independence of the country to the utmost. Pesehkpur, too, stresses the need to get the country's economy going again, and asks religious leaders to guide the nation in its difficult task of returning to normal.

He emphasizes the unity and independence of Iran, adding that no political organization in any form is permanent; what is permanent, he says, is the nation itself, and every patriotic Iranian should be thinking of the country's honor and integrity.

The radio here gives a repeat broadcast of the communique of the Tehran military governor.

The recording of the Majlis debate continues with a speech by the deputy for Mahabad, Heydari, who speaks of the misdeeds of past governments and the repression exercised by SAVAK. The deputy praises Dr Bakhtiar's plan to dissolve SAVAK and to punish those of its officials responsible for misappropriations of government funds and property.

At this point the Majlis speaker, in response to a motion by several deputies that discussion of the government program has gone on long enough, proposes that it end.

RADIO, TV STAFFS REACT TO BAKHTIAR SPEECH

LD161225 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1135 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar, in his remarks at the Majlis today, commented on the National Iranian Radio and Television [NIRT], and our striking colleagues. These comments will certainly create misunderstanding among them. Although radio and television belongs to the Iranian nation, and is entrusted to us and we are not entitled to use this trust to voice our own views, nevertheless if this very radio and television becomes instrumental in creating a misunderstanding with the Iranian nation, we are then forced to explain the situation. We are confident that the Iranian nation, the true owner of NIRT, will allow us this.

Our striking colleagues in NIRT want no more than what the entire Iranian nation wants; they say no more than what everyone in the nation is saying all the time. To describe some members of this patriotic group as SAVAK members is to pursue the rusty policy of Iran's enemies who are currently trying to give us a bad name to every patriot by leveling sundry accusations against them, including that of being a SAVAK member, and to stop them in their struggle.

As regards the Constituent Council of the Union of NIRT staffs, it should be explained that this council has not claimed to have founded the radio and television in this country; it is rather an association of those who want to create the union of the organization's staffs. In order to set up this union it is not necessary for an individual to have had a share or participated in the foundation of radio or television years back.

During the bitter years of the past, NIRT, like any other organization in this country, has also been beset by disorders and some agents of the inhumane SAVAK organization probably infiltrated it. If the staff of NIRT are in step with their compatriots in regard to national awareness and alertness, one of their aims is to eliminate the same disorders and punishment for the very misled antinational elements. These two points--namely, decisive struggle against corruption and for the dissolution of SAVAK--have been included in the program of the government of Dr Bakhtiar. The NIRT staff hope that what was said by Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar regarding this organization's striking staff stems from a misunderstanding, and they expect that he himself will do what is necessary to remove this misunderstanding.

BAKHTIAR INTERVIEWED ON REMARKS ABOUT RADIO, TV STAFF

LD170245 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Prime Minister Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar interview tonight with our correspondent, 'Abbas Mosallanezhad, regarding his remarks in the Majlis today about the staff of the National Iranian Radio and Television--NIRT; recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Prime Minister, I thank you for participating in this interview. In the Majlis today you made a speech in the course of which you made certain remarks regarding the NIRT staff. Considering the fact that NIRT has more than 8,000 employees, that all of them are on strike at the moment, that their objectives are the same as those of the Iranian nation and that if there is a limited activity with regard to news broadcasting, those working in these units all share the same views and objectives pursued by their striking colleagues; and considering further that we demand that suppression be denounced, freedom gained, democratic traditions respected, and other demands of the Iranian nation that we share--considering all this, it was understood today that we were denounced for something for which we have gone on strike. I would like to ask you, as our country's prime minister, to provide some explanations in this regard for the further information of Voice of Iran listeners.

[Answer] In the first part of your remarks you brought up the demands and objectives of the strikers. If they are seeking the abolition of censorship, elimination of suppression and democratic freedoms, then, as I stated in the Majlis today and have said frequently, this has been achieved or will almost [as heard] be achieved in the very near future. However, that a group of people who have themselves been in the pay of this organization [SAVAK] are now demonstrating in front of others is something that has nothing to do with 8,000 conscientious and hardworking NIRT employees. Corrupt elements can be found in any organization. The same applies to television as well. However, those who are making more noise than others are, I think, those who have benefitted more than others from the period of suppression and from its attendant advantages. I am objecting to these people. If any misunderstanding has arisen concerning others, I most humbly apologize.

[Question] Thank you, Mr Prime Minister. There have been irregularities in the radio and television organization, in common with others, and SAVAK elements may have infiltrated into this organization as well. One of the objectives of the striking staff is this very campaign against corruption and suppression and the rooting out of elements from antinational organizations from the NIRT.

[Answer] You are aware of the fact that in the past if someone wanted a job in a government agency, he would either be sent directly by SAVAK or at least SAVAK's tacit agreement had to be obtained, and the employee's promotion to a great extent depended upon SAVAK's support. By eliminating this aspect of SAVAK's operations I wanted to make the job of the striking gentlemen more easy, so that everyone can advance on the basis of his art, his value and his work. This is what is known as democratic, free and just in every sense of the words. Otherwise, if those chosen were able to advance without any merit, this would be contrary to the movement, to democracy and to the freedom I envisaged.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, as the head of government you are no doubt planning to end these strikes as soon as possible. How do you think the NIRT strike could be ended?

[Answer] I am ready to enter into negotiations with people who have logic on their side, those whose feelings have justifiably erupted now. I am ready to negotiate at the earliest opportunity with those having logical demands, those motivated by democratic processes, by the principle of the rule-of-law, justice, equality and the issues we raised just now, namely, to everyone according to his labor and merit. I would ask the gentlemen to go back to work and be assured that the maximum freedom possible will be given them in the same way I gave the press full freedom.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, you referred to a mild government control in NIRT. Please tell us how this mild control will be implemented.

[Answer] I will give you maximum freedom, and, as I have said, it would be better if you rather than I exercised control. However, after all, radio and television is financed by the government through taxes collected from the people. The government must have certain responsibilities and powers with regard to radio and television. So the situation is, to some extent, different from that of press freedom. In the case of the press, it is their own capital investment and their business to offer material to the people or for the people. At any rate, I would not tolerate any suppression in radio and television either. However, it does not seem very logical to me to allow a government organization to work against the same government that has given it freedom of action.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, my final question does not apply to NIRT employees alone, for it is more general. In view of the current situation in the country and in the course of the month which is now ending, many groups of employees working in various organizations have not gone to work, either because of fuel shortages or strikes, or possibly because of slow downs. Again, bearing in mind that the tenth Iranian month will end in a few days time, do you think these people will be paid their salaries?

[Answer] It is a matter of principle in a healthy society to pay wages in exchange for labor. Since our society is in an abnormal state of crisis and eruption, of course I cannot put all the blame for slow downs and refusal to work on the striking people. Since I have had nothing to do with this and it is only 10 days since I took office, I will order that this month's salaries be paid. At the same time, I emphasize there is no possibility of paying salaries to anyone who does not work starting the 1st of the coming month [21 January]. This will be carried out whatever the cost because we are struggling for justice, fairness and democracy. If someone was assured of being paid his wages and bonuses even if he did not go to work, he would find no reason for going to work at all; the concept of working would lose its meaning, and everyone would sit at home doing nothing. Only a conquering country can do this.

This has been the prevalent system over the past 10 to 15 years. Many of the employees of your own radio and television used to be described as the cash-box workers, that is to say, they used to come and collect their pay once a month and sat at home the rest of the month. This will end. Payment will be made for labor, whether it is the prime minister or one of your radio and television janitors; anyone who works will be paid.

PRIME MINISTER BAKHTIAR ADDRESSES NATION

LD161850 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Address to the nation by Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar--recorded]

[Text] Dear compatriots: As I described in detail in the government's program, I have accepted responsibility for the country's administration in the most critical moments of its life. And, contrary to previous governments, I have firmly based the axis of my activities on the foundation of a democratic government, in accordance with which all the peoples in the country will be able to freely express their opinions and be active in matters connected with themselves and their compatriots. I have revived all the lost rights and traditions of constitutionalism, and in 10 days of leadership, despite extremely difficult conditions, I have been able to present to the Iranian people what the most progressive political figures could have presented. I must tell you that the Iranian nation is now in a life-and-death situation, and that the results of 25 years of suppression and corruption have aroused your anger, dear compatriots.

In these hours of destiny you should pay attention to the country's future with logic and coolness, and you should put aside rancor and selfishness. It is time the Iranian nation proved that it deserves freedom and democracy; it is time we made the world understand that our country can become a free, independent and democratic country.

We should not transgress the rights of those people with whom we have differences in views and tastes; we should not carry out actions whereby the people of this land and its soil come into confrontation with one another; God forbid that we should do things whereby malevolent rumors may reach one's ears from certain parts of the country.

But relying on the law, and as a responsible prime minister, I will utilize all my powers and capabilities in order to prevent anarchy and transgression against the people's rights. Simultaneously, with my assurance to you that those who have transgressed against the people's rights will be punished, I ask you--just as their great eminences the ayatollahs have condemned personal retribution and destruction--I ask you, as good, pure-hearted Iranians, not to listen to the incitement of suspect and irresponsible elements, but to constantly think of your future and your children's future.

It seems entirely natural that the development of a society under a despotic regime to a progressive and democratic society cannot take place without clashes. However, we have made sufficient sacrifices. The young people have displayed extreme selflessness. But those who, in anticipation of these grassroots developments, have adopted the path of exaggeration and self-praise have often been nurtured by this very fearsome apparatus--one against which I stood for 25 years and fought against.

Dragging people onto the streets and bazaars daily, preventing students and pupils from attending their lectures and classes, preventing workers from producing, and frightening people by creating fear and threats: these are contrary to religion, morality and the interests of the country.

As a responsible prime minister, I have instructed the country's security forces to arrest, in accordance with the standards of law, and deliver to the competent courts all those who entertain ideas of emasculating or fragmenting the soil of dear Iran. I am fully confident that the faithful and patriotic people of the country have understood our logic in these sensitive days and will not shrink from cooperating with the security forces, who are the protectors and guardians of the law.

At any rate, I will not vacillate for one moment in carrying out the responsibility of the office of prime minister, which guarantees the stability and existence of the country. I have accepted this responsibility as a fighting Iranian who has found his homeland in danger.

May your benevolent prayers and time enable me to pass the acid test ahead with pride and flying colors!

TEHRAN MILITARY GOVERNOR WARNS POTENTIAL TROUBLEMAKERS

LD161325 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1155 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Communique No 29 from the military governorate of Tehran and suburbs issued on 16 January]

[Text] Esteemed citizens of the capital: As everyone knows, the military governorate of Tehran and suburbs, during sensitive periods recently and during the ceremonies for the reopening of university and higher education organizations, has exercised the utmost cooperation and helpfulness toward the esteemed citizens of the capital in order to be in step with the government's decisions and to cooperate with the fellow citizens from the universities and educational organizations. Thanks to the awareness of our dear compatriots and the alertness and supervision of the martial law officers, there have fortunately been no unhappy or tragic incidents.

According to information received by the military governorate of Tehran and suburbs, a group of opportunists, who have been unable to exploit the recent rally of the country's honorable people to create disorder and disturbances, intend simultaneously with the shahanshah aryamehr's trip abroad to infiltrate the people's constructive rallies, to resort to certain acts and activity which would force the martial law officers to resort to violent actions, and consequently to gain an excuse and pretext for continuing disturbances and riots later on.

Esteemed fellow citizens, the military governorate of Tehran and suburbs, in pursuing the government's policy and dictated by the sacred duty and responsibility it has in accordance with the law in maintaining calm and order and in protecting the people's lives, property and honor, regards itself as dutybound and obligated to use all its legal powers and resources to act decisively against any provocation, subversion and antipeople activity, and to punish most severely the inciters and instigators of unpleasant incidents.

Meanwhile, it should be reiterated that the protection and security of all sensitive areas, government organizations, imperial Iranian Armed Forces' organizations and those of the gendarmerie, and including police stations, are given particular priority. As always, they will continue to be guarded with the utmost decisiveness and care, and the slightest attack or infringement on them will be crushed with the utmost severity.

The military governorate of Tehran and suburbs once again expresses its profound thanks for the valuable cooperation of our esteemed fellow citizens in establishing calm and order in the capital. It expects the honorable citizens of the capital and suburbs to prevent infiltration of subversives, undesirables and troublemakers in their ranks, to reject any provocative and antinational activity, and help and assist the military governorate of Tehran and suburbs in its critical and sensitive mission.

[Signed] Military governorate of Tehran and suburbs, Lt Gen Mehdi Rahimi.

AFP: TEHRAN CELEBRATES DEPARTURE OF SHAH

TA161620 Paris AFP in English 1613 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[By Claude Juvenal]

[Text] Tehran, Jan 16 (AFP)--"Yankee go home," the young woman shouted at a French reporter, shaking her fist. When informed of her mistake, she kissed him. For an Iranian woman it was an unusual public gesture.

Nearby, people chanted: "The shah has gone. Now it's the Americans' turn."

Barely an hour after the shah's departure, Tehran was like a war-zone city that has just been liberated. Millions of people, even in the city's fashionable northern district, took to the streets to voice their joy. Horns screeching, cars loaded with as many as 20 persons inside and out drove with headlights ablaze through the streets. Carnations or small pictures of Ayatollah Khomeyni were affixed to windscreen wipers which moved in rhythm with the riffs [refrains] of the horns.

In the main streets, youngsters ran with arms outstretched, making the "V" sign. "SAVAK (political police) has lost its father," they chanted.

Other people brandished banknotes with a large hole in the middle where the obligatory portrait of the shah had once been. "Ten thousand rial (about 120 dollars) notes," someone commented. "That's what a worker earns in one month."

Mullahs were carried shoulder-high by the crowd. In workers' districts, old folk in wheelchairs were brought on to the main streets to share in the celebration.

The army kept in the background, confining itself to guarding the main public buildings. Soldiers stayed in their trucks and read newspapers bannerlining the departure of the shah and empress.

As night fell, the car horns were still honking. The curfew was scheduled as usual for 11 p.m. local, but there were doubts whether it would be respected.

"How can they (the shah and empress) return after this," was the question being asked. To which the answer tonight seemed: "How indeed?"

TEHRAN RADIO REPORTS DEMONSTRATIONS 16 JAN

LD161844 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Text] People demonstrated on some of Tehran's streets this afternoon by turning on their car lights, blowing their horns and chanting slogans. Despite the calm prevailing on most streets in Tehran, these demonstrations turned violent on some squares in the city resulting in damage, including on Sepah and Sana'i squares.

This evening his eminence the Ayatollah Taleqani, in a public speech in Pich-e Shemiran, warned the people to maintain order and refrain from any action which would result in destruction and arson, or from attacking public places, government and private buildings and also army premises.

According to the latest report, at the end of the speech a huge group of people, led by his eminence the Ayatollah Taleqani, began marching toward 24 Esfand Square; the march is still continuing.

AFP: TEHRAN DAILY SAYS U.S. MAAG CHIEF FOUND HANGED

TA161825 Paris AFP in English 1817 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Jan 16 (AFP)--Colonel Arthur W. Heinhott, head of the United States military mission in Iran, has been found hanged in his Tehran home, the daily ETTELA'AT reported today.

The newspaper said an investigation had begun to ascertain whether he had killed himself or was murdered.

POWER WORKERS PROMISE END TO POWER CUTS

LD161904 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The country's power industry workers have issued a statement announcing that in order to maintain all installations in an operational condition and to utilize them to the maximum in the interests of the nation, the regular and continuous power outages which used to take place between 2015 and 2145 will no longer occur. As of today, 16 January 1979, the only power cuts will be for purely technical reasons. Of course, the power industry workers, until they attain their final aims, will continue their struggle and their revolutionary movement, in step with their compatriots, following in the wake of the informed and dedicated religious community.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY ISSUES STATEMENT URGING ORDER

LD171154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The religious community of Tehran issued the following statement today:

In the name of God, in this crucial situation and in this transitional period for the Iranian State, all sections of the Iranian Muslim nation are expected to fully observe calm and order and to avoid causing chaos and anarchy and infringing on government institutions, security forces and military brothers, the majority of whom are faithful and share the same objective as the nation. It is deemed necessary to point out that those who incite others to riots and disturbances and to infringements on the people's property are not of the noble Iranian nation and are rejects from the spiritual point of view.

TEHRAN REPORTS KHOMEYNI MESSAGE URGES CALM

LD161705 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Text] His great eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni, in a message addressed to the Iranian nation, called on all Muslim and faithful people to observe calm and order in these sensitive moments and not to allow ill-intentioned elements to harm the movement with their violent actions.

PARIS REPORTS KHOMEYNI RECEIVES NATIONAL FRONT LEADER

LD162011 Paris Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Text] At Neauphle-le-Chateau in the Paris suburbs, Ayatollah Khomeyni is preparing his return to Iran. This evening he is receiving the number two man in the National Front, the main Iranian opposition party.

AFP: KHOMEYNI SAYS HE WILL FORM PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

TA161241 Paris AFP in English 1231 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Neauphle-le-Chateau, France, Jan 16 (AFP)--The exiled Ayatollah Khomeyni, who has been masterminding the revolt against the shah from his place of exile here, announced today he will return to Iran "at an opportune moment" and that he is going to form a provisional government.

He hailed today's departure of the shah as the first stage in the people's victory against the Pahlavi dictatorship.

Later today he was to send a new message to the Iranian people whose "heroic struggle," he said in a message to the press, was responsible for victory.

The ayatollah, who preaches the setting-up of an Islamic republic in Iran, also claimed that all the shah's belongings were public property, an Islamic government would sue for its recovery, whether it be in Iran or in foreign banks, he said.

The ayatollah also asked the Iranian Army to prevent the Americans from dismantling installations which, he said, were bought with Iranian money.

The ayatollah, who went into exile 15 years ago, (?first) in Iraq and more recently in France, has never ceased demanding the abdication of the shah, the (?second sovereign) of the Pahlavi dynasty, founded by his father in 1925.

The Pahlavi dynasty had destroyed Iran and reconstruction of the country could only be attained through union of all the population in "this historic moment," the ayatollah said.

Final victory does not depend on the abdication of the shah, whose departure was only a first step, but on ending foreign domination over Iran, he declared.

The exiled religious leader called on Iranian youth to take in hand the maintenance of order in Iran and resist "the lying propaganda of the enemies of the people."

The danger of a military coup was now over, he said.

KHOMEYNI: U.S. LEADERS ARE 'ENEMIES' OF IRANIANS

LD160933 Paris L'EXPRESS in French 20 Jan 69 p 63 LD

[Christian d'Epenoux 10 January interview at Neauphle-le-Chateau with Ayatollah Khomeyni: "Ayatollah Khomeyni tells L'EXPRESS: 'We Want a Neutral and Nonalined Republic'"]

[Excerpts] [Question] How do you stand in relation to the two camps?

[Answer] Our Islamic government will be free and independent. And the balance of forces in that area should not change at all. We lean no more toward the West than toward the East, and we want to be a neutral and nonalined republic. We want to have friendly relations with all countries, as long as they do not interfere in our domestic affairs.

[Question] But does not your plan to cut oil supplies to Israel and South Africa already indicate a political choice?

[Answer] No. That is how we will deal with countries which mock law and justice. As for Israel, we do not take sides in its conflict with the Arabs. We are merely placing sanctions on a country whose advisers have helped the shah's police and army to persecute and oppress our people. Otherwise, our sales are normal. We will spend the oil money for the good of the people and not on ruinous military equipment.

[Question] How do you view the American attitude?

[Answer] The U.S. administration and the President have become enemies of the Iranian people. The presence of their military bases and advisers have impoverished our country. The United States has become an accessory and has backed the massacre of our people by the shah's ignoble regime. It is now up to the American people to exert pressure on their government.

[Question] Have you received aid from Libya?

[Answer] That is absolute fantasy. We have not received aid from any country. Our people have always faced the tanks and machineguns with their bare hands. If the colonialist powers continue to back the Iranian criminals--and foremost among them the shah--we will opt for another path.

[Question] In an anthology published in 1970, titled "Islamic Government," you explain the doctrine of an austere and rigid system based on strict observance of the principles of the Koran. You add that "there will be no place for opinions or feelings" in such a system. In other words, the citizens will obey "only God and His law." Will they accept this strange restriction of their freedoms?

[Answer] In an Islamic system, freedoms are total and unambiguous. There is an exception to the rule, however, regarding freedoms contrary to the people's interest or which damage the dignity of the individual. The people's massive support for us over the months proves sufficiently that they support our ideas and these outlooks.

It also proves that this people, whom some have tried to separate from religion by material temptations, are happy to follow the divine road once again and to rediscover their real soul. We will fight waste, recover the wealth embezzled by a handful of profiteers, improve the conditions of the underprivileged, and guide the nation onto the road of honesty and sacrifice, which alone will permit a free and new society to be built.

NATIONAL VOICE OF IRAN WARNS BAKHTIAR OF U.S. PRESENCE

TA162050 [Editorial Report TA] National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 16 January was heard congratulating the Iranian nation, "because the shah was forced to leave the country, despite his desire and that of his American masters, because of the desire of the Iranian nation." The unidentified commentator explained that the shah's departure was a victory "of the revolutionary struggle" and the battle of the Iranian nation, which has been expressing itself for over 50 years since the reign of Mohammad 'Ali Shah Qajar.

At one point the commentator pointed out that "if a national and competent government of the people were established in our nation, then thieves and confidence men like (?Jabr Yazdani) and criminals like the murderer General Nassiri" and the shah and their ilk would not be known to Iran.

Addressing the government of Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar, the commentator asked: "How can you ignore the presence of (?a huge number) of Americans, the American (?military establishment), and (?thousands) of (?professional) American CIA spies who are busy plotting (?against Iran)?" How can the obvious plots of the Americans and the "approach by the American fleet to the shores of our country" be ignored?

National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Persian to Iran at 1800 GMT on 16 January was heard to comment on the requirements "for success in this battle." In addition to the need for guidance from progressive national forces, the Iranian people will need to make preparations "to confront any kind of armed plot by the guardians of the shah's regime and their (?foreign) masters." It is vital that the revolution remain alert, and this readiness must be assured by the revolutionary organizations and councils, the commentator says.

AFGHANISTAN

AFP: KABUL RADIO DENIES REPORTS OF FIGHTING

BK161733 Hong Kong AFP in English 1722 GMT 16 Jan 79 BK

[By Jean Francois le Mounier]

[Text] Islamabad, 16 Jan [AFP]--The Afghan authorities have denied reports of fighting in the country, describing as "lies" stories given to Western journalists by Afghan refugees in Peshawar, northeast Pakistan.

Quoting an authoritative source, the radio said the reports of fighting between rebels and government troops in the northwest of the country were untrue and probably spread by circles opposed to the agrarian reform which was launched in the country at the beginning of the year.

The reports, mainly from the Muslim right wing organisation "Jam'at-e Eslami-ye Afghanestan" speak of fierce fighting between the local population and Afghan troops in the northeast province of Khunar.

In its latest communique, dated Jan. 11, Jam'at-e Eslami claimed that "Muslim warriors" had cut all communication between Djellalabad and the Khunar Province and that fighting was in progress in the regions of Arit, Shomash and Chalas.

These regions are mountainous and particularly isolated and are officially forbidden zones for foreigners. It is therefore very difficult for foreign observers to get a clear picture of the situation there.

Jam'at-e Eslami also said that serious incidents had occurred last month in the province of Badakhstan, in the extreme northeast of the country in a zone which borders on the Soviet Union, China and Pakistan. Jam'at said that Soviet troops on horseback had tried to prevent a small tribe, led by its chief Rahman Qul, from going on their traditional migration from the Lesser Pamir to the Greater Pamir to graze their flocks and herds.

In the clash four Soviet soldiers and one Afghan guerrilla were killed, said the communique which protested against the presence of Soviet troops on Afghan territory.

The communique added that "Russians guilty of interference in internal Afghan affairs will be treated in the same way as the pro-Soviet government in Kabul."

Jam'at also said that clashes in December between Afghan troops and Muslim rebels in the Zardew, Sarghelan and Baharak valleys in Badakhstan, involving aircraft and parachutists, caused more than 100 dead among government troops, including three officers.

Jam'at said that the brother of Mahmud Hashemi, Afghan minister of water and electricity, was killed by the rebels who seized 190 rifles. The communique said that 54 civilians, including women and children, were killed in government air raids on the Zardew and Sarghelan valleys.

Jam'at added that 850 people, including a local religious leader, the Maulana Abdul Rahim, were arrested in the region last month and nothing had been heard of them since.

Describing these reports as "false", an authoritative Afghan source said that special government envoys had recently been sent to regions of the country where the climate was temperate to decide on the redistribution of land under the government land reform program. This provides for a maximum of six hectares (15 acres) of best quality, irrigated land per farmer.

The reform had not yet started in regions which were difficult to reach because they were under snow most of the winter but the necessary administrative work had begun, said the source.

This land reform is the first real attempt undertaken in Afghanistan, one of the poorest and most backward countries in the world. The agrarian reform decided on by the former government of Mohammad Da'ud never got beyond the stage of statements of good intentions.

TARAKI ADDRESSES ARMY OFFICERS 27 DECEMBER

LD161522 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] Nur Mohammad Taraki received officers of the No 7 army command [words indistinct] at the People's House yesterday morning. BAKHTAR reports he was given a standing ovation. He then addressed the meeting.

The great Sowr Revolution transferred political power to our party and the party is a great force. But now another era has begun, which is even more important and valuable and this era is that of building a new society in Afghanistan. Our people's armed forces, (?that is) the members of the party and other patriots, must keep in view the fact that the revolution is a continuing process and will continue until we build a society that is free of exploitation of individual by individual. Some people might imagine that now political power has been taken over and now they may rest but I say and [words indistinct] that difficulties and (?privations) do exist for our task of rebuilding our new society. We and you must shoulder these difficulties and not bequeath them to the coming generation. We are not aggrieved by the fact that we have to face difficulties and tribulations.

I congratulate you that you are the pioneers of Afghanistan who accomplished such tasks under the guidance of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan on the basis of which a new society, free of exploitation, will be built.

As you know, and I have told you before, this is a party of workers, peasants and toilers, but up to the present our working class is very young and its numbers have not increased because it was hampered by the feudalists and imperialists. However, they are bound to increase in number and attain class and political consciousness within a short period of time, and until then you military young men are our workers and proletariat and you are the fighter of our party [words indistinct].

Therefore, in order to put this idea into practice for the good of the people of Afghanistan we must strengthen our armed forces in every way, from the viewpoint of morale and also materially. We should (?fully develop) its [word indistinct] and military skill and capabilities and the Khalqi government is always preoccupied with the task of how to achieve (?this aim) so that under the [word indistinct] of the party and Khalqi armed forces we may continue the work of building a society that may be free of oppression [words indistinct].

The president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister added: All of the enemies of the people have been eliminated and it was a task that was accomplished by the party. This could not be done without the party. I declare that the Khalqi government in Afghanistan belongs to the workers, peasants and other toilers, and they are now able to enjoy the fruits of their toil. (?Since) our happiness and the happiness of the entire people of Afghanistan lie in their happiness, therefore we expect them to produce more and to protect their tools and implements carefully.

Our great leader, the president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, added: "The great Sowr Revolution in Afghanistan has benefited 98 percent of Afghanistan's toiling masses but it will not be to the benefit of the remaining 2 percent; not only they but also their international supporters, namely the imperialists and black reaction, are (?perturbed) [words indistinct]. They say that religion, the mosques and the priests are in danger. We say that it is totally false. We respect religion. We respect those mullahs who are not opposed to the Khalqi revolution and we [words indistinct] respect those (?divines) who are not against the Khalqi government. But those who are tools in the hands of the imperialists and other international reaction, they certainly have no place here. They must flee from here and they have fled.

Our great leader, the president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, added: A number of our enemies have fled. The imperialists and black reaction have put a rope around their necks and they are being (?employed) like monkeys in the streets and bazaars, towns and villages against us and they level improper and false accusations against us. They allege that their women and [word indistinct] are being violated in Afghanistan, but we say--(?and) the [words indistinct] are aware of it--that following the revolution only one episode has taken place in which thieves entered a house and violated its owner.

Our great leader added: (?This) is one of the merits of the Khalqi government that it does not give any exception to anyone and gives full rights to all the nationalities, but even then if anyone under the pretext of language, religion, etc, wants to divide us it is the movement of the imperialists and foreigners and we cannot tolerate (?that he is properly treated). Everybody knows that now the news is being published in several languages and also several languages in the radio programs. (?We have not) [words indistinct] (?for anyone's complaint). Even then anyone (?who says) something about (?us) here and there and endeavors to divide our people, they are the enemies of the revolution. No one has the right to oblige any other person to (?say that he speaks in this or that language. [words indistinct] I repeatedly say that we (?give right) to anyone to speak freely in the language he speaks. But all these (?speeches), all these should have one (?side) and that is that it should be in the interests (?and peace) of the toilers of Afghanistan, and it should be for that task to work and produce and not for their weakness [words indistinct].

INDIA

DESAI GREETS NEW IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER

BK161613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, has felicitated the new prime minister of Iran on his assumption of office. In a message, Mr Desai expressed the hope that Indo-Iranian cooperation will continue to flourish.

INDIAN ELECTION COMMISSION HEARS GANDHI EXPULSION CASE

BK151120 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The chief election commissioner, Mr Shakdher, has observed that the expulsion of a member from the Lok Sabha means vacation of the seat from that constituency. Mr Shakdher said this when Mr D. M. Stephen, leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, contended that mere expulsion of a member from the house does not amount to vacation of the seat.

The election commission was holding a public hearing on certain matters relating to the expulsion of Mrs Indira Gandhi from the Lok Sabha and Mr Suresh Seth from the Madhya Pradesh legislative assembly. Mr Shakdher said that the Lok Sabha Secretariat has in a notification informed the commission that Mrs Gandhi had been expelled from the house and that she ceases to be its member. He observed that this notification amounts to the vacation of the seat. He said it is not provided in the law who will declare a seat vacant. Mr Stephen did not agree that the expulsion of a member from the house amounts to vacation of a seat unless a motion is adopted in the house to that effect.

Earlier, the counsel appearing for the Janata Party, Mr P.N. Lekhi, raised preliminary objections to the commission having a public hearing on the matter. He said the commission has no jurisdiction to go into the expulsion of Mrs Gandhi from the Lok Sabha on the basis of a communication received from Mr C. M. Stephen. He contended that the election commission would be inviting contempt of the house by opening the proceedings of the house. He also questioned the locus standi of Mr Stephen to initiate a hearing in this matter. The hearing is continuing.

NONBAILABLE WARRANT ISSUED AGAINST SANJAY GANDHI

BK131617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The additional chief judicial magistrate of Lucknow, Mr B. D. Kesri, today ordered the issue of a nonbailable warrant against Mr Sanjay Gandhi, one of the accused in the case of alleged illegal detention of some wine dealers. The court rejected an application on his behalf for exemption from personal attendance and adjournment of the case. It observed that the accused has been adopting dilatory tactics to delay the proceedings. The accused in the case, Mr Narayan Dutt Tiwai, former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, was present in the court.

DELHI RADIO REPORTS AID COMMITMENT TO AFGHANISTAN

BK170924 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The Indo-Afghan Joint Commission for Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation concluded its review on the recent agreement on cooperation in New Delhi today. The agreed minutes were signed by the visiting Afghan deputy minister of planning, Mr Fateh Mohammad Tarin, and Mr U.S. Bajpai, secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Under the agreed minutes, India is to finance some industrial projects in Afghanistan, opening a new era in bilateral cooperation. India's aid commitment to Afghanistan amounts to over 70 million rupees. It covers the setting up of three industrial estates, half a dozen microhydro projects and a child health institute besides providing technical experts and training facilities. The quantum of aid is expected to increase considerably with the agreement to finance the industrial projects.

Under today's agreement India will provide the finance for setting up plants for the production of matchboxes, paper, caustic soda, phosphatic fertilizers, agricultural implements and asbestos. India will also consider an Afghan request for setting up centers to maintain roads in that country and to promote adult literacy.

Wheat Supply Accord

BK171027 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Jan 79 BK

[Text] India and Afghanistan exchanged today letters for extending by 3 months the agreement under which India is to supply 50,000 tons of wheat to Afghanistan.

Under the agreement, originally signed in March last year, so far only 35,000 tons of wheat has been supplied. The letters were exchanged in New Delhi today by Dr I.P. Singh, joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, and Mr (Samad), director general in the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

INDIA VOICES DEEP CONCERN ABOUT U.S. URANIUM SUPPLY DELAY

BK121509 Delhi ISI in English 1450 GMT 12 Jan 79 BK

[Text] India has conveyed its deep concern to the United States at delay in the processing of India's applications for enriched uranium for Tarapore and arranging of supplies of it, reports PTI.

This has been done both in New Delhi and Washington. In New Delhi, the U.S. charge d'affaires was called to the External Affairs Ministry where secretary M.A. Vellodi conveyed to him India's concern over the delay. In Washington, the Indian Embassy has done so at the State Department on 12 January.

There are now two applications pending before the U.S. Administration and these were held up for several months before they were even forwarded to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

Even the 7.6 tonnes of enriched uranium, which has now been supplied, was delayed and it took more than 1 year to be cleared.

Of two applications now pending, one is for 16.8 tonnes which is already 11 months old. The other application is for 19.8 tonnes of enriched uranium which was made in October 1978.

U.S. Assures Clearance of Uranium

BK151021 Delhi ISI in English 0846 GMT 15 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The United States has assured the Indian Embassy in Washington that it would expedite clearance of the licence for the long-pending shipment of 16.8 tonnes of enriched uranium to Tarapore power plant, reports PTI.

This was told on January 12 in Washington when A.B. Gokhale, minister political at the embassy, called on Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders and raised the question of interrupted uranium supplies to Tarapore.

MAURITIUS PRIME MINISTER TALKS WITH VAJPAYEE, DESAI

BK121513 Delhi ISI in English 1448 GMT 12 Jan 79 BK

[Text] Mauritius Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam held discussions in New Delhi on 12 January with External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on bilateral economic and cultural cooperation, reports PTI.

Talks took place when Vajpayee called on the visiting prime minister. The talks lasted about 75 minutes.

Seewoosagur had an hour-long meeting with Prime Minister Morarji Desai last evening when he extended an invitation to Desai to visit Mauritius.

PAKISTAN

GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR FOREIGN TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM CAMBODIA

BK161619 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jan 79 BK

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Islamabad today that the Pakistan Government views with concern the recent events in Democratic Kampuchea. The spokesman said that the overthrow of the legal government of that country by external military intervention is in violation of the principles of the UN Charter and the rules of international law bearing on the rights and duties of all nations.

The spokesman said that it is the duty of all countries to respect the political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states and to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of others. Human rights cannot be invoked to justify external military intervention.

The spokesman said that in accordance with these universally recognized principles, the Pakistan Government fully supports the international call for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Democratic Kampuchea.

PRESENCE OF U.S. MONITORING STATIONS DENIED

NC161002 DOHA QNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 19 January--Official sources at the Pakistani Embassy in Kuwait have denied recent reports about the presence of American monitoring [tasannut] stations in Pakistan. In a statement issued last night, these sources emphasized that there are no such stations in Pakistan.

A Kuwaiti newspaper said yesterday that there are some American monitoring stations in the Islamabad area in Pakistan.

ZIAUL HAQ TO ENACT MORE ISLAMIC LAWS NEXT MONTH

BK170303 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Jan 79 BK

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said he will enact some more Islamic laws on the 12th of Rabi al-Awwal [10 or 11 February] and limit the time by which other laws such as fiscal, banking and financial laws will be Islamized.

In an interview with the Impact International of London, he said the first thing that has happened and should have happened a long time ago was to give the nation the direction that Pakistan stands for Islam and is totally committed to Islam.

In reply to a question the president said his emphasis right from the very beginning had been on bringing sanity and restoring legality in the country. Regarding the accountability task, he hoped the process would be finalized by the end of March or early April. He said out of the number expected 60 percent have been disqualified because much time was consumed in the changeover from normal civilian courts to military tribunals.

The president emphasized that the first task before them was to clean up the political life but they had also given the right of self-defense to the accused. He said the bureaucracy has also been taken into account and some individuals were dismissed after they had been given a chance to defend themselves. A number of senior civil servants were also facing trials for misconduct during the last elections. Asked if he would be able to meet the 1979 deadline for holding the polls, he said Inshallah [God willing]. I am very confident about that. He added that there will be fair and impartial elections and there were no preconditions to the polls.

The president said that at the first opportunity he will hold the local bodies election on a nonparty basis and hoped this would enable the parties to replan and reequip themselves. We will then be in a position to hold provincial and National Assembly elections.

Replying to a question about the form of government, the president said since opinion was divided on the question of presidential form, he should let the future political government decide it.

Replying to a question about the role of the armed forces, he said the role of the armed forces was very important and a decision had to be taken at the right time. Elaborating the point he said firstly there has to be a balance between the powers of the head of the state and the chief executive; secondly, the defense chief will be able to come in at the time of extreme political emergencies either at the call of the president or at their own initiative. This has to be within the constitution but not such as may become a Damoclean sword over the head of the civilian political government.

About the economic situation, the president said the state of the economy was now far better than it was a year ago. The balance of payments situation has improved. They have also been able to control inflation and the GNP has gone up, but the gap between the rich and the poor is yet to be bridged.

BRIEFS

SOVIET SURVEYING ASSISTANCE IN AFGHANISTAN--An agreement on Soviet assistance in petroleum geological surveying in Afghanistan has been signed. Under the terms of this agreement the Soviet experts will continue their work until the end of December 1979. [Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 27 Dec 78 ID]

AFGHAN- CSSR PROTOCOL--A protocol for the exchange of goods between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia for 1979 was signed in Kabul today. The protocol was signed in the presence of Abdolqoddus Ghorbandi, the minister of commerce, and His Excellency Zdenek Karmelita, the Czechoslovak ambassador, by Hakim Malyar [deputy minister of foreign trade], and the deputy minister of foreign trade of Czechoslovakia, who is now visiting Kabul. [Text] [Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 13 Dec 78 ID]